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"GOOD AS WHEAT."

The following are the words of the famous Granger song, entitled "Good as Wheat:"

Oh! what is all this noise about,
And all this great commotion?
The quivering leaves are on the breeze
Like ships upon the ocean.
The gathering storm has broke at last,
The tide is rising higher;
While plowmen, bold, have taken hold—
The prairies are on fire.

CHORUS.

Then plow and sow, and reap and mow,
And raise the corn to fill the barn
While on to camp and field we tramp,
"Good as Wheat" for the Granges.

The soil is ours, we till the land,
And we're the true producers;
No middle-man can thwart our plan;
We scorn our vile traducers:
Our hands are seared with honest toil
While skies are bright above us,
And conscience clear, we onward steer,
While aiding those who love us.

Then fill our ranks with honest hearts,
With steady-handed yeomen,
While men of place with Janus face
We hold among our foemen.
Monopolies must surely fall
Before our gatherin' forces,
Our purpose will lead us through,
Despite their wicked courses.

Written for the BLADE.

A Christmas Story.

It is a blunt way to begin the story, but the fact is, Henry Wilmot wasn't satisfied with himself. Not that his business matters had taken a freak and were getting him into all sorts of difficulties; for the amount of business done that year and the profit arising from the same had far exceeded his wildest hopes; not that anything had gone wrong with him that day before Christmas, that week or a good many weeks before that Christmas day; for happiness which usually attends success had been crowning Henry Wilmot for a good many years; and yet all that busy day there had been something going on in his mind that left a shadow on his handsome face.

He didn't stay at the office as long as he generally did, and troubled still by this something which nobody could guess, he left the establishment for his partner to look after and went out into the clear December air. That it was clear you may well believe, and cold too, as to that matter. The street lamps, used as they were to all sorts of weather, flared and flickered so, that it seemed as if they were hopping about to keep warm. Of course, that was only the man's fancy, and it was a fancy that lasted hardly long enough to call it one. The gust of wind that slapped him in the face, scattered all such ideas, and in half a minute more, he, like the rest of the throng that was crowding the street, struck into a brisk walk to keep warm.

Not such fun walking the street the night before Christmas. No matter what the weather is there is sure to be a jam, and it make but a precious little difference what street you take, you are pushed and crowded out of all manner of patience. Then, too, nobody seems to care much about you on such a night. They are cheery enough as to greeting you; but they have a way with them which seems to say, "Take care of yourself, old fellow, and don't bother me now. Be sure to be on hand to-morrow, and good night." Of course we know what it all meant, and with arms full of bundles and packages, like everybody else, we go crowding and pushing with the best of them.

Now, all this is very well for those whose bundles of love and affection and regard are faintly shadowed forth by the numerous paper parcels which they are carrying home the night before Christmas; but for a man in Henry Wilmot's condition, with not a single paper roll in his hand, and a big bundle of something in his heart, which was far from being one of love, or affection, or regard, the little collections were not a bit agreeable. One would have thought that the brimming good nature and the hearty good will beaming from every face would have charmed from the troubled man the evil that tortured him; one would have supposed that every bundle he ran against would have said as plainly as a bundle could say, "Go and do thou likewise."

That is exactly what every bundle did say, and that wasn't the worst of it. The man at whom the little text was hurled heard it every time, and in his heart swore at the little impudent Christmas parsons for preaching their sermons on the side-walk.

Now, there was something about that sermon that will surprise you a little, my reader. Henry Wilmot wasn't provoked because of the "go and do thou likewise," which met him at every turn—that is, as you will be apt to apply the text. He wasn't stingy a bit, this man wasn't, and to that everybody who knew him would testify. Why, as for that, there wasn't a poor family in his neighborhood who had not engaged his bounty time and again, and this very Christmas season not a man in his employ would have a Christmas dinner to which Henry Wilmot had not largely contributed; while the number of people who would rejoice to-morrow over the gifts of this same Samaritan, would surprise you if I should take the trouble to write it down. No, Henry Wilmot wasn't stingy.

"Go and do thou likewise." What does that mean, then? How could it preach such a powerful sermon to him? If we would think a minute, dear reader, you could easily tell. Don't you know how an idea will be in your mind, well, for years, and some day, it will flash up before you, with a new beauty, a new meaning which it never possessed. That was the trouble with the text. You and I, in our common way, suppose that the bundles only exhorted him to be carrying something home to his wife, and at that very minute the jewels in his pocket would have pleased a duchess. That was the old application. A new truth had been finding its unwelcome way into the man's heart from that simple text, and it did not please him.

What's that? Domestic troubles? An unquiet home, and no love lost between husband and wife?

Well, that may be; we can't tell from appearances what is the real truth, you know. The chances are, however, there was nothing of the kind going on in that house. Indeed, I am inclined to think if there had been a little domestic disturbance—just a little one—it would have been a relief to the man who so ungraciously received the jostling of that well wishing crowd.

So with that same thing on his mind Henry Wilmot found his way through the busy streets. How everybody and everything did wrestle with that bitterness as the man walked on. I've told you already how the lamps at every corner danced about and winked at him with all their might, as much as to say, "O, we know of somebody, you and me"—bad grammar, but all the more hearty, for that—"we know of somebody who is going to find a stocking full in the morning, don't we?" And the lights, never minding the grunt of ill nature they received, cut up all sorts of capers with the man when his back was turned, and threw right before him on the sidewalk some of the most laughable caricatures you ever saw in your life. As to the crowd that disturbed him so, he tried to get rid of it by taking a more quiet street; but small comfort he got by that plan. He couldn't get clear of that any more than he could of his evil conscience, and everybody knows how that clings to one. There was for awhile something in the bright starlight that soothed him. The clear, cold air did have a tendency to make the stars twinkle and sparkle away off in the distant blue; but there was none of that impudent familiarity which the street lights manifested, and no insulting silhouettes thrown after him in his walk. Still he did not gaze long at the stars. Across the starry heavens, unrolled the panorama of Bethlehem. Among the sacred hills the shepherds watched their flocks, and he saw them; the star in the East appeared, and down through the star beams trembled again the song that will never grow old, 'Peace, good will to men!" Good will to men! That was what the stars sang to Henry Wilmot as he turned from the starlight to the lights which sent a broad, bright cheer of welcome from the windows of his own home.

That warm welcome did something which nothing but the light from one's own windows can do. It sent back down the street in one long, black line, the shadow which had been dogging the man during his long walk home. That was the first thing it did, and simple as the act was, it was the one thing needed for the beginning of the evening which was to follow.

Somebody hinted a little while ago about an unquiet home under Henry Wilmot's roof. It didn't look much like it that night before Christmas at all events. The flood of light which streamed through the windows was only one of the bright things which was waiting to greet him. As he drew nearer, the yellow flames from the grate, which had been playing hide and seek with everything in the parlor from the frolicsome kitten winding at it on the rug to the grave portraits on the wall, seemed to get an idea that somebody was in sight, and blazed out with such a powerful light, that the big easy chair standing vacant before it, and evidently waiting for somebody, cast one great shadow across the grass plat and into the gateway just as its master lifted the latch.

There was nothing very discouraging in the scene which Henry Wilmot saw as he glanced in through the laces that barred the windows. Pictures and delicate marbles, ivory heaps and well upholstered chairs and sofas, were some of the well-known things he saw; but better still, in through the folding doors whence the firelight came, his well filled book case looked lovingly out upon him; while the table beside his easy chair, drawn not too near the clear full blaze, the little rocker on the other side of the table, very busy just now in swaying to and fro, and the bronze clock on the marble mantle, watched over by an angel with folded wings, seemed every one of them to say as plainly as the stars had done: "On earth *peace*; good will to men." O, there was no unquiet home there, you may well believe.

The click of the latch, and the steps on the walk, had a wonderful influence over the movements of the rocking chair; for judging from the shadow it made, it seemed to give one good lunge back and another forward, and then, after one or two little tips this way and that, as though it was standing tip toe, it stopped its pranks and stood as demure as a deaconess, if they ever have such church officers.

In the meantime, there were lively times in the hall. Ting-a-ling, a-ling went the musical door bell; only it didn't think of stopping at the second a-ling, I can tell you, but kept it up till it's hasty 'How d' ye do," would have tired the master if he had noticed it. Notice it! not much chance for that! His hand was hardly on the bell-knob, when the door came open—wide open, and the instant the hall jets had flooded, the man, with a perfect torrent of dazzling light, two fair arms got around his neck and two red lips—well, I don't know exactly what did become of them, for about a minute, buried as they were in Henry Wilmot's abundant beard; but there was a smacking of something which didn't come in the door, and while I wouldn't say under oath what it was, I still have my ideas about it.

What a little blossom of a woman it was, though, that took such liberties! Curls? Not an. Blonde? Not the least sign of a [illegible] head. Tall? up to her husband's shoulder; do you know now? [illegible] ever see a fat "little blossom?" Well, just as she was—and if I should paint her portrait for you, you would conjure up somebody you have seen [illegible] and whom she would resemble as much as she does the bearded lady—just as she was, I say, the wee hands untied and unwound the long scarf which they themselves had knitted, managed some way to force the big buttons through the not very accommodating button-holes, and in half the time it takes me to tell it, the big overcoat was hung on its accustomed peg on the hat rack. Then there was such a putting about of arms as though the two were six years old instead of—something more, and they walked from the hall into the little back parlor and stood for a moment in the bright firelight. No, there wasn't any love lost in that house I assure you, and though to all intents and purposes each had enough and to spare, they were both of them as stingy of it, even at Christmas time, as any old miser you ever heard of.

Well, the door bell couldn't have got through shaking from the effects of that lusty pull, when another one, not quite as large and with a softer tone, struck up a little song of its own out in the dining room. I guess that was what they had been waiting for, for at the first note away they went, the one talking as fast as a feminine tongue can talk when a little excited, and the other listening with all his might; the one looking up with an expression half-way between fear and hope; the other looking down and utterly forgetful of having a single trouble to brood over with such a home as that, and such a wife as that, on the cold, wintry time it was.

"What the de—!" What ever the rest of the last word was you couldn't guess. It might have been dear, or delightful, there are so many words you know that begin that way. I am afraid, though, from the man's look and manner, that he intended the word to begin with a capital letter, and that makes a difference. Bless us, how black he looked as he said it, and how he scowled at the youngster standing by the dining room register as he and his little wife entered the apartment.

Little Josh Birney, however, did not mind the look, and so far as the half finished word was concerned, he didn't care. The chances are he didn't hear it, any way, for when you get a growing boy of fourteen and fifteen in sight of a well spread table, the only thing he'll be apt to hear and heed will be in regard to taking his place before a well-filled plate.

It would have done you good though, to have looked into that bright face. That is what Henry Wilmot thought as he met the glance of those big black eyes, and that is what made him choke back what he had begun to say. There was good nature written all over the boy's handsome features, and more fun lurking about the laughing mouth than you would care to see, if you were in hopes of having a quiet evening among your books.

"Well, uncle, it's me, you see, all right side up, and ready to make the most of everything, as the grocer said, when he nigged in weight. Tell the plain truth, I didn't know what was to become of me this Christmas. Mother wouldn't let me invite anybody in, and father's been as cross as the sign of multiplication for more than a month. So when Aunt Milly, here, sent over the little note, I was glad, I can tell you."

During the delivery of this intelligence the round, red-cheeked face had been going over to where the uncle stood, and the fat, boyish hand was extended for a friendly shake. Somewhat gingerly, it must be confessed, the hand was grasped in the larger palm of the man.

It hadn't been very satisfactory, this surprise and meeting, on several accounts. On Mrs. Wilmot's part she could have shaken the youngster for saying just what for all the world she would not have him say; and to have him blurt it out in that fashion was provoking enough. For Wilmot, himself, an imp would have been more pleasing sight than that young cub. So much to start with, and when a few seconds later he learned that his wife had been sending notes of invitation to any of that tribe, he was a little more vexed than a man ought to be on Christmas eve, in the presence of such a Christmas dinner as that. "Peace on earth, good will to men!" Yes; but not in the Wilmot dining-room at that particular time.

The words which sprang to the man's lips, bitter as they were, did not pass them. It may have been something in the open frankness of the boyish face—reminding him so much of another over which the snows of many Christmas days had drifted—that staid the rising wrath; and with a show of cheer the three were seated about the glittering board.

Didn't the boy have a good time, though! From the soup to the very last raisin it was indeed a feast, and he didn't make a glutton of himself either; and that's a good deal to say of a boy at Christmas time. What stories he told in his fresh boyish way. What fun it was to hear him rattle on as if his uncle was the jolliest man in the universe, and the dearest friend he had. The best of it is, the boy had good reason for thinking so. He, thanks to his determination to have a good time, and, as he had said, "to make the most of every thing," never dreamed there was any trouble. At first, his fun did not meet with that happy reception which it merited; but the dainties he was discussing, prevented him from taking that to heart even if he noticed it, but by the time the pudding came in, the cloud had lifted from the uncle's face, and the peals of laughter which every good thing received, were duly appreciated by the artless lad.

To Mrs. Wilmot, the dinner and its consequences began to have all the excitement of a novel, and I am afraid, if the thing had been possible, she would have skipped to the last chapter, to see how it all came out. She had, indeed, been watching her husband for these many days, and with her womanly instinct she thought she saw where the trouble was, and was only too anxious to aid in its removal. Her very assistance had, however, been almost the means of failure.

It's a hard thing for a man to confess that he has been guilty of a meanness. One can have a general idea that this transaction or that wasn't exactly on the square, and admit in a general way that if circumstances had been different, he would have done otherwise; he may even go so far as to express regret for the occurrence; but to say without reserve: that is a mean, contemptible thing, and I did it, and I did it, too, because I yielded to a bad, wicked impulse, for which there is no excuse; that, my reader, is something, that we don't like to do. Still it was a conclusion to which Henry Wilmot had come. It took him a long time though. Five, six, seven Christmases had come and gone since he had had of himself a mighty poor opinion, and every one of these feast days had left him vowing that before another twelve month came, he would make what reparation he could.

Well, he did make what anybody else would call reparation; but the plague of it is when we are dealing with ourselves, we know so thoroughly who we are dealing with that there is no danger of getting cheated. So when Wilmot gave his money for this and for that, saying very earnestly to himself 'that'll make things straight,' he knew what a lie he was telling, and the money, so far as his purpose was concerned, was so much thrown away. So it had been all these years, and on this Christmas Eve, he had almost decided—more than that he had decided, that before he slept he would do the right thing at last.

Now, where one gets so far as to make up his mind what he is going to do, and how he is going to do it, he doesn't want help from anybody. Favors great or small, to be received must come before that conclusion or not at all. The light that streamed out in a flood of joyous welcome was what had done the business for Henry Wilmot. The crowds upon the street, the dancing street gas, and the distant stars had wrestled with old prejudices and got the better of them, and with that blessed home light came the determination to follow the right as he had seen it so long. That was his determination; and there was Josh. Birney in his own house, on his wife's invitation, as much as to say: "That's a good start for you, now go ahead!"

The fact is, as I have said before, the man didn't want any "good start." This boosting business never had met with much favor from him, and if he couldn't go ahead on a start of his own then he wouldn't go at all. Obstinate? Its Christmas! The man was *peculiar*, not obstinate—so peculiar, in fact, that after smothering down the anger he felt for the well intended interference, he went right back upon the old intention to sleep in peace that night, if he slept at all. That's how it happened there was such a good time going on when the pudding came in; and that's why the little meddling wife wondered so how it was all coming out.

"I'm going to take a bit of a ride, Milly; would you like to go too? Chance for you, Josh, if you'd like it. Would you? Not a very long ride, my dear; only going to take Josh home to tell his mother we're going to keep him all night. Besides, it's such a splendid night—so clear and cold—it will do you good. Come, on with your hats and wraps, and I'll have the carriage around by the time you're ready."

Now it was that Mrs. Henry Wilmot began to feel scared a bit, and began to think she didn't want to go driving about the city on Christmas night, and to doubt considerably about its being a healthy move in any sense whatever, and to conclude she wasn't going at all. Now it was that little Josh Birney began to wonder what was up, when his uncle, who hadn't crossed his father's threshold for ten years, should be going there now on such an errand as that, when Aunt Milly said in her note to his mother that "of course the boy would stay all night." Now it was that at the decision of the wife not to go out, and in the middle of the boy's wonder, Mr. Henry Wilmot came bustling in, and seeing how matters stood, proceeded at once to array that obstinate—no matter if it is Christmas—obstinate wife of his, in all the furs and shawls he could find, and before she was hardly aware of it, she and Josh and Henry were upon the cushions and whirling along the streets.

That was a drive worth taking now, I tell you. Mrs. Milly didn't say much, because she wasn't quite sure. Josh didn't say much, for he hadn't got over his wondering yet; but if actions ever do speak, then Henry Wilmot did a great deal of talking. Every corner he turned seemed to drive from his face something of the old hardness which had been growing there so long, every light they passed wished him a kindly God speed, while the far off stars, which a few hours before had told "that sweet story of old" to unfriendly ears, chanted again the sweet refrain, and were no more rebuked.

They were not long upon the road, and half an hour, perhaps, found the coachman reining up before the door of Hiram Birney. The soft light from the hall, as it glanced in through the carriage window and athwart the face of Henry Wilmot, showed nothing but the quiet determination which had been there since Josh had taken his first mouthful of Christmas pudding. But he bounded as soon as the wheels grazed the curbstone, and out came Josh and the little white faced woman, who wished herself at home a thousand times. Up the steps, through the soon opened door, the little party passed, and, Wilmot leading the way, they found Hiram Birney and his wife passing a quiet evening by the cheerful library fire.

If a party from Heaven had come suddenly in, there could have been no greater surprise. Mrs. Birney, with instinctive courtesy, came forward to greet her guests, while Birney seeing who his visitors were, kept his seat, and without a word looked straight into Henry Wilmot's face. There was no long, awkward pause, with the men staring at each other. For a moment only, Wilmot looked upon the stern features of the man before him, and then he said:

"Ten years is a long time, Birney, for a man to settle a question in; but it has taken me ten years to come and say to you that I have wronged you, bitterly wronged you, and that I did it without any excuse, whatever. The only reasons I had for my shameful treatment are too foolish to be repeated. I have no other to offer, and I should not give them if I had. My business here is of another nature. I have come to tell you that I did a mean, contemptible thing. I have come to tell you that I am sorry for it. I have come to beg you to forgive me, if you can."

Then it was that the pause came. The ten years which Henry Wilmot found necessary to make up his mind to right a wrong, had been busy with him, who, during this time, had been suffering from the effects of that wrong. It was a hard thing for Wilmot to strangle his pride and to make the straight forward confession he did; but was it an easy thing, my reader, for Hiram Birney to forget those long years of injustice, and in a moment make answer to this unexpected appeal for forgiveness? No matter what the offense was—and I'm not going to tell you what it was—could you have broken from the bonds of resentment which years had strengthened, extended your hands in token of good will, and made up in a moment? you can say yes, if you wish; but in that case it will be the biggest one you've told for a twelve-months, or I am much mistaken.

Yes, then came the pause; and then came as sharp a conflict as was ever decided upon larger fields with bayonet and sword. On the one side was injury unprovoked, and retaliation clamoring for revenge; on the other, the legions of peace with Forgiveness traced upon the colors of snow; on the one side evil desire, the other duty; here hatred and malice, there, affection and love; and from among the stars, which, eighteen [hundred] years ago, had shone upon the sleepers who "watched their flocks by night," came the rushing of white wings and the faint echo of "good will to men."

It was very still in that little library while this battle was going on. The clock on the mantle was the only thing that broke the terrible silence, and that became so excited that it couldn't tick twice alike, try as hard as it might. The two women standing there might have been taken for statues so colorless were cheek and lip; while little Josh, who from his babyhood up had never been quiet for a moment, stood there the very picture of amazement, winking his big black eyes.

"Well!"

The word came out as though it had overcome ten thousand clashing interests, and had just strength enough left to make itself heard. It came as well earned victory always comes, at the end of a long and very doubtful conflict, leaving the strong arm that earned it, weak as a little child's. It came as the herald of a conqueror; and they who heard it, rushed gladly out to meet him.

There was no reserve—no half way work, in the extended palm of Hiram Birney. His hand and heart went together, and into that brotherly handclasp thrilled all the latent affection of ten weary years; while the malice and the uncharitableness which had been his masters so long, were lying dead upon the field of strife.

Wilmot? He didn't stand a great while after taking his brother's hand. No; I guess not; he was liable to sudden colds, and all of us know how necessary a handkerchief is, at the beginning of an attack. His wife and his sister, Mrs. Birney, you know, they cried some, but then women are apt to do that sort of thing on almost every occasion. They went through with some other performances, such as kissing each other and their husbands, calling them good boys and all that sort of thing; and the handkerchiefs they carried had a hard time of it, you may well believe. As for young Josh, he wasn't forgotten in the general rejoicing; for his Aunt Milly, firmly believing that he, after all, had been the real peace maker, loaded him with such an abundance of huggings and blessings, that if he had never learned what becomes of peacemakers, he was sure to learn it now.

These demonstrations ended after a while, and when the fire in the grate had burned low, and the time-keeper above it got the attention, at last, of that Christmas party of five, with many a warm good-night—such as they had not enjoyed for ten long years, the three rode home under the happy starlight to a peaceful sleep—three, for Josh insisted on accepting his invitation—and the two found rest in that peaceful slumber which comes alone from seventy times seven forgiveness.

That is all, dear reader, that I have to say. Heaven grant, when the Christmas time has gone, that the old hates shall all be dead, and the old loves restored. Heaven grant that the wicked passions and desires which enslave us all may not outlive the joy that Christmas brings. Heaven grant that the tidings of great joy which come sounding from the skies may bless your heart and mine. Heaven grant that the echoes which our glad hearts return may still be, "Peace, good-will to men."

Ten Days in the Iron and Coal Fields of North Alabama.

To the Editor of the Detroit Post:

Briefly and plainly, I propose to tell what I saw in this region of mineral wealth, giving only a little testimony of highly competent witnesses, to help a clearer understanding of the whole matter. I made Birmingham a center, it being in a valley nearly in the middle of the mineral region, at a railroad crossing, and with a good hotel—the Relay House—and went out some 40 miles in different directions.

These Alabama hills are the southern terminus of the great Apalachian range, and it would seem as though its richest treasures of iron and coal had been pushed out to this end of the mountains in some prehistoric convulsion of Nature's Titanic forces.

Going south to visit a furnace we saw a company of men on the railroad track three miles from Birmingham, and recognized them as Pennsylvanians we met the night before, experienced and able iron men. Joining their party we stood on the track at a gap cut in the Red Mountain, and saw a solid wall of red hematite fossiliferous ore, 50 feet long and 15 feet high, and were told they had found the hill for three miles northeast almost a mass of ore, and these hills reach some 40 miles, and join the ranges far toward the Georgia iron fields. The ore was rich, mixes well with the brown hematites which are near by. The red hematite was awarded a high prize among the best at the late Vienna Exposition. I visited the Red Mountain furnace, just south of this ridge, and the Brierfield furnace, near the Rome and Selma Railroad, 45 miles south west, and found good iron made under disadvantages from charcoal, but facilities, with capital and skill combined, to make iron from bituminous coal and coke at rates of cost below those yet reached. There are many places where iron, coal and limestone are all within a few miles, accessible by tramways easily built, and thus to be brought to the furnace doors at less cost than anywhere else. Their market for iron is at Cincinnati and Louisville, and the best of their car wheel pig iron is held equal to any made. The ore is shipped to Indiana, by Louisville.

I also visited a field of brown hematite ore ("needle ore," "honey comb," and "quill ore"), near Tannehill, on the Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad, 25 miles southwest of Birmingham, and spent a day in exploring the thousand acres we went over. On the ground were boulders of fine ore in such abundance that I think over 150,000 tons could be picked up without use of pick or spade, while great masses above and below the surface would yield millions of tons. As a sample, I crossed a cornfield in which the plow had turned up ore in almost every foot, and went to a ditch in low ground, the bottom of which was solid ore; then climbed the bluff close by over masses of ore to its top, 100 feet above the ditch—literally an iron mountain—and this but one of several others. I was told of a vein of red hematite on the tract which was visible, on the side of a bluff, for 100 feet up, with five feet in thickness, and within three miles [illegible] abandoned and [illegible] equally [illegible]. Going back to the railroad we passed on an adjoining track owned by the Pennsylvanians, a cut made by the Confederates, and from which ore was mined in the war. This revealed the fact that the masses above ground were but a fraction of the huge bulk below, for the space of 50 by 15 feet laid bare was massive in its piles of fine brown ore, which makes excellent iron. Let this suffice for iron, and now a word on coal.

Birmingham is near the eastern edge of the Black Warrior coal field which covers some 5,000 square miles west, between and beyond the two branches of the Warrior, in a wild and hilly region. The edges of the great bed are supposed to turn up like the rim of a platter, and the central and richer beds to be horizontal.

I went into the Newcastle coal mine, 12 miles north of Birmingham, over 300 feet, sloping down a little at an angle decreasing as we went in, and found five feet of coal with two thin veins of slate. I also saw other beds as far as 15 miles below, of equal thickness or greater, but not worked.

On the Black Warrior, over the hills, 25 miles west of Birmingham, I saw along the river beds of 11 feet thick, and traced the coal cut crops down to the river bottom, in such a way as to make over 40 feet in depth of coal, with the usual slate veins, and this in two places, three miles apart, with coal abundant between. For many miles along these streams coal is practically inexhaustible, and these great beds I saw are samples of what may be seen elsewhere. I was told by a well known iron man from the North, of his seeing a vein of 11 feet of coal east of the Warrior, while I was there.

I have obtained from a Welshman a sample of cannel coal, from a vein over 30 inches thick, which he proposes to work. Semi-bituminous and softer coal are found of a quality fully equal to the best in this country, burning with clear flame and strong heat, and cooking, it is said to good advantage. I also have a sample of "black-band" iron ore from the Warrior.

The coal beds I saw on the Warrior were mostly in the lands of the Alabama Coal and Navigation Company, who own land for miles along the river. They propose to build dams, open slackwater navigation to Mobile and the Gulf, and thus hold the key to a coal trade equal to supplying the Gulf, the Lower Mississippi, and the iron furnaces by water transportation. As the Warrior is from 8 to 15 feet deep where I saw it, and only interrupted by a few shoals and ripples, their great enterprise seems feasible. They also hold lands in the Cahaba coal fields, where coal is excellent and abundant in 500 square miles, and the 1,000 acres of iron land I have described is a few miles north of their coal, and is also their property.

East toward Georgia is the Coosa coal field, of some 260 square miles—and tracts of coal are interspersed among beds of ore in that region, it is said. I have a sample of coal mined by the Confederates eight years ago on the Cahawba, and left exposed on a pile of 1,000 tons still lying there, which is hard and good yet.

On the Warrior, we hauled up blocks from the solid bed on the river bottom, which I saw burned in a grate, the same evening, shedding light abundant in their combustion.

But enough. Alabama is good for a supply of these minerals for the world for some centuries. I brought back specimens of coal and ores, gathered with my own hands, which may help to satisfy inquirers. G. B. STEBBINS.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 16, 1873.

Number Seven in the Bible.

On the seventh day God ended his work.

On the seventh month Noah's ark touched the ground.

In seven days a dove was sent.

Abraham pleaded seven times for Sodom.

Jacob mourned seven days for Joseph.

Jacob served seven years for Rachel.

And yet another seven years more.

Jacob was pursued a seven days' journey by Laban.

A plenty of seven years and a famine of seven years were foretold in Pharaoh's dream by seven fat and seven lean beasts and seven ears of full and seven ears of blasted corn.

On the seventh day of the seventh month the children of Israel fasted seven days, and remained seven days in their tents.

Every seven days the land rested.

Every seven years the law was read to the people.

In the destruction of Jericho seven persons bore seven trumpets seven days; on the seventh day they surrounded the walls seven times, and at the end of the seventh round the walls fell.

Solomon was seven years building the temple, and fasted seven days at its dedication.

In the tabernacle were seven lamps.

The golden candlestick had seven branches.

Naaman washed seven times in the river Jordan.

Job's friends sat with him seven days and seven nights, and offered seven bullocks and seven rams for an atonement.

Our Savior spoke seven times from the cross, on which he hung seven hours, and after his resurrection appeared seven times.

Fiasco.

An Italian paper gives the following explanation of the origin of "fiasco":—There was a celebrated harlequin in the city of Florence by the name of Biancolelli, whose principal witticisms consisted in making a long harangue about any object he might hold in his hand at the time. Each evening he appeared in the ring with a new object, and [illegible] he was known to [illegible] both spoken and sung. On one occasion, however, when holding a flask in his hand—which in Bergamo, the place of his nativity, is called "fiasco"—it seemed altogether beyond his art and skill to jovialize the audience, whereupon he furiously addressed the "fiasco" in these words: "It is thy fault that I am so stupid to-day. Get out of this," and he threw the flask behind him. The audience were amused and laughed, but the harlequin made a total failure. Since [illegible]

There is no use in being dragged through the world like a dog tied under a cart, yelping and hanging back. What we must do, we may as well do willingly, as well walk as be dragged.

RELIGIOUS.

The Congregationalists of Ohio propose to raise $10,000 in the State, for home missions, during the coming year.

The *Christian Leader* complains of numerous clerical filibusters who, somehow, drift into the pulpits of Universalist Churches.

Swedenborgianism was introduced in America about 90 years ago, and now numbers about 5,000 adherents.

The Universalists in this country have nine hundred and fifty churches, five colleges, eight seminaries and two theological schools.

The Baptist General Association of Missouri reported 5,000 baptisms at its late session, which makes their total number in the State 79,404.

Iceland, with a population of 50,000, has 300 Lutheran ministers, their salaries ranging from $30 to $300, being paid by the Government.

There are 18 Baptist houses of worship in process of erection in North Carolina, some of them at important points not occupied by the denomination heretofore.

A clergyman has been lecturing the Philadelphians on "Money making for Churches," "The folly of getting mad," and "Ice in the pulpit, and who put it there."

In Kentucky the Southern Presbyterian Church reports religious awakenings and accessions to the Church in various parts of the State. Other denominations are sharing in the gracious visitation.

At the late General Conference held by the Mormons at Salt Lake, four Scandinavians were appointed to go to their native land, and there labor for the propagation of the faith of the Latter Day Saints.

Dean Stanley does not believe in the Apostolic succession. In a sermon recently preached by him in Edinburgh he showed that as a matter of history there are no successors to the Apostles. These died, and appointed no one in their stead.

Ceylon, with a population of 2,500,000, has only three hundred and four Christian ministers, while there are 5,343 Buddhist priests, 1,078 Sivite priests, 449 Mohammedan priests, and 862 devil dancers.

The Presbyterian Synod of Iowa South, at its last meeting, set apart the western part of Nebraska, lying west of a line running east of Nuckolls county, as the field to be covered by a new Presbytery, to be called Kearney.

The first Presbyterian Church in Michigan was organized in Detroit in 1825, by Rev. N. M. Wells, who, at that time, was the only Presbyterian minister in the State, or Territory, as it was then. The Synodical report for 1872 shows now 131 churches and 141 ministers.

The annual exhibit of the Southern Methodist Publishing House shows that the assets over and above the liabilities are nearly $277,000. The profits of the business during the seven years that Dr. Redford has had charge of the business department amount to something over $188,000.

The religious practices of the Prince of Wales are creating considerable uneasiness among Protestants in England. He and his wife are often seen attending public worship at All Saints', one of the most ritualistic of all the London churches. The Roman Catholics are already predicting that the Mass will be re-established when he reaches the English throne.

The committee appointed at the last convention to consider and report on a division of the Diocese of Ohio after due consultation have agreed to favor a division by a line running east and west, near the center of the State, leaving Gambier in the northern division, which will retain the name of the Ohio Diocese.

The American Lutheran gives the following items of progress in the Lutheran Church for 1873: The General Synod increased above all losses 44 ministers, 84 congregations, 3,197 members; the General Council increased 26 ministers, 34 congregations, 14,353 members; the General Synod South increased 7 ministers, lost 4 congregations, increased 775 members.

Bishop Lee, of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, writes affectionately to Bishop Cummins protesting earnestly against a movement for a separate organization. "It were far better," he writes, "for our extreme ritualistic brethren to finally secede to the Church of Rome, to which they are tending, than for yourself and others of like mind to leave such a Church as ours for a new ecclesiastical organization."

There is a Lutheran [illegible] near Allentown, Pa., consisting of two congregations which has had but two pastors in 88 years. The Rev. Conrad Yeager served them 40 years, and his son, the Rev. Joshua Yeager, 48 years. The latter is 72 years old, preaches twice every Lord's Day, and performs other pastoral duties during the week.

In Chicago there are about 150,000 Germans, not including Scandinavians and Hollanders. To provide for the spiritual wants of these Germans, the Protestants have thirty ministers and thirty-one churches, with a total membership of 7,400. The Roman Catholics have thirty-six priests, eight German Catholic churches, and 10,000 church members. The attendance on Protestant services is about 14,000, and on the Catholic 15,000, or a little more in all than one-fourth of this population.

A German statistician gives the following dates as the periods in which certain usages were adopted in the Roman Catholic Church: Holy water was introduced in A. D. 120 and penances instituted in 157. In 348 monks came into fashion, followed in 391 by the Latin Mass, and in 550 by extreme unction. Purgatory was introduced in 593, and in 715 came the invocation of the Virgin Mary and the Saints. Kissing the Pope's toe was instituted in 809, and in 993 Saints were first canonized. Bells were rung in 1000, and ten years later priestly celibacy was ordained. Four years afterward indulgences were proposed and dispensations granted in 1200, the elevation of the host dating from the same year. The Inquisition was established in 1204, and confessions in 1215. The Immaculate Conception in [illegible], of Infallibility in 1870.

EKLY BLADE.

J. P. JONES.
JONES, Proprietors.

IO, THURSDAY, JAN. 1, 1874.

CLUB LIST.

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WAVERLY MAGAZINE, price $4.00, and the BLADE both one year for $4.75.

Please remember that we CANNOT ALLOW COMMISSIONS on subscriptions for the above named papers and magazines, except for the BLADE, Locke's Monthly and American Farm Journal as stated.

Our Agents everywhere are authorized to receive subscriptions at the above rates. In making this proposition we only stipulate that we must receive at the *same time* one subscriber for the BLADE for each copy of any other publication ordered from the list. They need not both be sent to the same person, nor even to the same Post Office, and in renewing their subscriptions, old as well as new ones, subscribers may avail themselves of the offer. The magazines and papers are all sent direct from the offices of publication to subscribers, so that there will be no delay in their receipt. No subscriptions received at the above rates for less than one year.

A PICTURE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO STUDY.

In the large cities throughout the country, thousands of poor laboring men are out of employment, for the reason that many branches of business are curtailed or suspended in consequence of the financial panic. These laborers have families depending upon them for food to keep them alive, and for clothing and fuel to keep them from freezing. It is very easy to sit by a good fire, with a full stomach, and reason upon the labor question and tell those people that we must all be willing to bear a share of the suffering occasioned by the panic, but to the man whose children are crying for bread, and who has no money and knows not how he can earn or obtain a penny, such talk is worse than idle nonsense—it is like the heated steel piercing the quivering flesh. Men wonder at the utterances of those laborers and don't see how it is possible for them to make demands for work, failing to obtain which, they clare their purpose to steal rather than starve. This alternative sounds harsh, and it is harsh; but it is the prompting of necessity—of a choice between life and death, as they understand it—and before denouncing those men in unmeasured terms, it is well for each head of a family to consider how he would feel and what he would say and do if placed in their positions. The laboring men may say and do foolish things, sometimes, and some of them may be entitled to but little sympathy, but many of them are undoubtedly reduced to a point where they are powerless to help themselves.

Public charity is doing much for those people by opening soup houses, &c., for their benefit, but to the man who is willing to work, that is not satisfactory, neither can he support his family in that way. What he needs is work, and pay for it. This he cannot get, because money cannot be had for the transaction of business, and there is no demand for work. Congress has been in session nearly a month, and has been thoroughly advised as to the extent of this suffering and its cause. They know that a revival of business and demand for labor depends upon some action on their part which will open a way by which currency may be had. They have adjourned over the holidays without taking such action. Cities cannot get their bonds cashed, and public improvements must be stopped. Members of Congress will do well to consider these facts and realize the responsibility resting upon them. If we have bread riots, Congress must answer for it.

☞The New York *Times* has but little consolation to offer those members of Congress who supported the $6,000 salary bill. It says: "The difference to each member between the pay allowed in the bill of yesterday and that allowed in the bill of the day before, is about $1,500 for money drawn since March, and $625 for the remainder of their term—in all $2,125. Perhaps this is enough to pay the members who fought so obstinately for it for the judgment their unfeeling constituents will surely pass on them. We hope it is enough to support them in private life, where most of them, we are confident, will be asked to spend the remainder of their days, after their present term is out."

☞It is believed that WASHINGTON'S servants are now all dead. And then, those who voted for the Father of his Country are becoming scarce, but the old ladies who danced with him in their younger days are just coming into view.

THE SANTA DO... TIO...

From West Indian ...ce, a bloodless revolution a...ars to have sprung into existence in the Dominican Republic. On the 25th of November, a proclamation was issued by the authorities of the City of Puerto Plata, the commercial metropolis of the Island of Santa Domingo, setting forth that the Dominican people representing the provinces of the Cibao, refused to recognize the authority of President BAEZ and of his government, nominating a Committee of Public Safety, and recognizing it as "The Provisional Government of the Dominican Republic," and declaring the Governor of Cibao, General GONZALEZ, "Provisional President," until a regularly elected President could be chosen by direct suffrage of the people. The same proclamation nominates two candidates for Presidential honors, Gov. GONZALEZ and Gen. CACERES. Puerto Plata and the vicinity, together with the Cibaon territory, comprises the most cultivated, most populated and wealthiest region of Santa Domingo, and lying in the northern portion of the Island has antagonistic interests to the provinces of Azua and Santa Domingo City in the South. So that the trouble originates in a conflict of sections. It is charged that General BAEZ is himself in league with the revolutionists, desiring a plausible excuse to leave the island with his wealth, but rumors to this effect are so conflicting that we await further developments before placing reliance upon them, and as no blood has been shed, and no tragical events are anticipated, the revolution will probably imitate the example so fashionable at present among enlightened nations, and terminate as peacefully as it was inaugurated.

THOSE OREGON CHARGES.

It will be remembered that the U. S Senate, to whom the nomination of Attorney-General WILLIAMS for Chief Justice was referred, reported favorably after having investigated certain charges of corruption originating in Washington City, but that other charges were preferred by parties living in Oregon. There has been much anxiety to know what those charges were. It seems that gross frauds were perpetrated at the election in Oregon in 1872, and the U. S. District Attorney, Hon. S. C. GIBBS, a Republican, was disposed to prosecute the offenders. The District Attorney, believing that the grand jury was acting corruptly, ordered a new jury, whereupon Attorney-General WILLIAMS, whose friends had informed him of what was transpiring, telegraphed Mr. GIBBS as follows:

I am advised that you have obtained an order for a new Grand Jury at this time of the Court to be summoned in an unusual manner. You are instructed to move to rescind such order, greatly increasing the expenses of the term. I am satisfied the regular Grand Jurors can do the business of the term. Take no action before such jury until you have reported to me the necessity for this extraordinary proceeding and expense.
GEORGE H. WILLIAMS, Attorney-General.

In reply to this dispatch, the District Attorney sent the following:

In reply, I have to say that it was proven before the last Grand Jury that a state of bribery and repeating was inaugurated in this District at the late Congressional election, which was alarming. A bare majority prevented in lictments, when the guilt was clearly proven. In one case the Grand Jury voted an indictment, and after one night rescinded the indictment by a vote of one majority. Upon investigation I found that Deputy Marshals were instructed from Portland to summon certain men designated. Supposing that the wheels of justice ought not to be blocked by mistake or corruption, I moved for a new Grand Jury. The Court amended Rule No. 11 by ordering that thereafter the Clerk, Marshal and United States Commissioners to select one hundred and fifty names from the assessment rolls of this and adjoining counties, from which a jury may be selected by lot. A jury so selected is to meet to-morrow. For thus doing my duty I understand representations have been made to you to prevent their meeting and for my removal as a last resort of the corruptionists to prevent prosecutions and cover up rascality. More by letter.
A. C. GIBBS.

The above dispatch from the Attorney-General was sent on the first of December, and, without waiting for the arrival of the letter from the District Attorney, that gentlemen was removed from office on the third of December. The friends of the Attorney-General claim that he was deceived by the corrupt "Ring," while the other side represent that he was in sympathy with the "Ring," and that his haste in removing GIBBS affords evidence of that fact.

This, we believe, is the true state of the case and affords the reason for the delay of the Senate in taking action upon the nomination of the Attorney-General for the Chief Justiceship. It is very unfortunate that the nominee for so exalted a position should not be above even the suspicion of corruption.

☞Members of Congress are human beings, after all. They are willing to cut down almost everything except their own salaries. It is reported that Mr. ORTH, of Indiana, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, is at work on a plan for reorganizing and reducing the expenses of the consular and diplomatic service. He is confident of his ability to diminish the expenses considerably more than $100,000. Mr. WILLIAMS, of Indiana, chairman of Expenditures in the War Department, has prepared a bill, with the co-operation and approval of the Secretary, reorganizing the War Department, which he claims will effect a saving of between one hundred thousand and one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The Committee on Appropriations is examining the Treasury Department, with the design of materially reducing its clerical force. Indiana members, thus far, are acquitting themselves with great credit. They are not only taking steps calculated to insure economy in the administration of Government, but they favor measures calculated to afford relief to the people from the financial troubles which are prostrating business interests.

☞The chief complaint against the settlement of debts under the bankrupt law is that the property of the debtor is absorbed by the attorneys and officers of the court. In a lengthy statement of cases which have occurred in New York, a few estates paid 60 per cent. to creditors, but a large majority only paid two, five, and ten per cent. Such facts are not calculated to encourage creditors to force a debtor into bankruptcy.

...AGE OF THE SALARY BILL.

...vote by which the House passed the sa...ry bill will be of interest throughout the country. It will be remembered that the bill provides for paying members of Congress $6,000 per year, with traveling expenses in addition, and was agreed to by a vote of 139 to 130, 16 members not voting, and that the main question was ordered by a vote of 131 to 130. On ordering the bill to a third reading the vote stood as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Adams, Albert, Archer, Ashe, Atkins, Averill, Barrere, Barry, Bass, Beck, Begole, Bell, Biery, Bowen, Bradley, Bright, Buffington, Burchard, Benjamin F Butler, Roderick R Butler, Cain, Cannon, Cessna, Amos Clark, Jr, Clayton, Clements, Clinton L Cobb, Stephen A Cobb, Comingo, Cook, Creamer, Crocker, Crooke, Crossland, Crouse, Crutchfield, Darrall, Davis, DeWitt, Duell, Durham, Eldredge, Elliott, Farwell, Field, Freeman, Garfield, Giddings, Glover, Robert S Hale, Hamilton, Hancock, Harmer, Benjamin W Harris, Henry R Harris, Harrison, Hathorn, Havens, John B Hawley, Joseph R Hawley, Hays, John W Hazleton, Herndon, E Rockwood Hoar, George F Hoar, Hoskins, Houghton, Howe, Hubbell, Hunton, Hurlbut, Kelley, Kellogg, Lamar, Lamport, Lansing, Leach, Lofland, Lowe, Lowndes, Lynch, Magee, McCrary, Alexander S McDill, McJunkin, McLean, McNulta, Mellish, Merriam, Milliken, Mills, Myers, Negley, Nesmith, Nunn, O'Brien, O Neill, Packard, Page, Isaac C Parker, Parsons, Pelham, Pendleton, Phelps, Phillips, James H Platt, Jr, Thomas C Platt, Rainey, Randall, Ransier, Rawls, Ray, Rice, Richmond, Ellis H Roberts, Ross, Sawyer, John G Schumaker, Henry J Scudder, Isaac W Scudder, Senor Shanks, Sheldon, Sherwood, Sloss, Smart, A Herr Smith, George L Smith, H Boardman Smith, John Q Smith, Snyder, Stanard, Standeford, Storm, Stowell, Strawbridge, Swann, Sypher, Taylor, Thomas, Thornburgh, Townsend, Tremain, Vance, Waddell, Waldron, Wallace, Jasper D Ward, Marcus L Ward, Wheeler, White, Whitehead, John M S Williams, William Williams, Willis, Ephraim K Wilson, Wood and Woodford—158.

Nays—Messrs Albright, Arthur, Banning, Barber, Berry, Blount, Bromberg, Buckner, Brown, Bundy, Burleigh, Caldwell, Cason, J B Clarke, jr., Clymer, Coburn, Conger, Corwin, Cotton, Cox, Crittenden, Curtis, Danford, Dawes, Donnan, Dannell, Eames, Eden, Fort, Foster, Frye, Gooch, Gunckel, Eugene Hale, John T Harris, Hatcher, Gerry W Hazleton, Hendee, Holman, Hunter, Hyde, Hayes, Jewett, Kasson, Knapp, Lawson, Lawrence, Luttrell, Marshall, Martin, Maynard, James W McDill, MacDougall, Monroe, Moore, Morrison, Neal, Niblack, Niles, Orr, Orth, Packer, H W Parker, Perry, Pierce, Pike, Poland, Potter, Pratt, Read, Robbins, William R Roberts, James W Robinson, Rush, Henry B. Sayler, Milton Sayler, Scofield, Sessions, Lazarus D Shoemaker, Small, J Ambler Smith, Southard, Speer, Sprague, Starkweather, Stone, Strait, Todd, Tyner, Wells, Whitehouse, Whittborne, Wilber, Charles W Willard, George Willard, Charles G Williams, William B Williams, James Wilson, Jeremiah M Wilson, Wolfe, Woodworth, John D Young and Pierce M B Young—1 4.

Not Voting—Messrs Barnum, Bland, Freeman Clarke, Dobbins, Hereford, Hersey, Hooper, Kendall, Killinger, Lamison, Lewis, Loughridge, McKee, Mitchell, Morey, Purman, Rapier, James C Robinson, Sheats, William A Smith, Stephens, St. John and Walls—23.

For the better understanding of the views entertained by members of Congress respecting this measure, a few extracts from the remarks of prominent members may not be out of place. Mr. EUGENE HALL said:

Before my hour is out I shall say in a few words why it is I believe the measure now before the House is not a substantial repeal but an evasion, an attempt to make out of the long delay and botched condition in which amendments have left the committee's bill, a little money to put in our purses.

Mr. DAWES:

The reason why I cannot vote for this bill is because it does not undo what we did last March. The scene this evening is but a repetition of the scene last March; and when I sat then in my seat struggling to be heard, I was met then with the same treatment that the gentleman from Maine has received here on this occasion. Sir, as history repeats itself in this, so it will repeat itself in the judgment of the people upon this transaction.

Mr. GARFIELD:

I have constantly desired to have this debate closed and the vote taken. But I am unwilling that the vote should now be taken, after what has been said by my friend from Maine (Mr. Hale) and my friend from Massachusetts (Mr. Dawes) without a word or two in answer, and a statement of the reasons that will govern me in the vote I shall give.

In the first place, Mr. Speaker, I have voted in favor of a simple, plain, and sweeping repeal of all thoses clauses of the bill of last March which increased salaries except those of the Judges of the Supreme Court. I have voted with both these gentlemen for all the principal amendments which have been offered to this bill. But I ask the House to pause and consider before we cast a negative vote on the proposition to reduce our salaries from $7,500 to $6,000. If any gentleman here in the name of economy wishes to say that we ought not to vote to reduce our salaries to $6,000, let him take the responsibility of saying it.

Mr. Dawes—Do not understand that—

Mr. Garfield—I do not undertake to say that this is the exact fact in the case. If the next vote is in the negative the subject of repeal is ended and the committee is discharged. This is a result that the friends of reduced salaries cannot desire.

Mr. Burrows—If the passage of the salary law of March 3, 1873, is so obnoxious to the American people, and fraught with such disastrous consequences to the Republican party, this protracted discussion over a proposition for its repeal—this hesitancy and debate—will only serve to heighten that odium and enhance that peril. The longer this discussion continues the less confidence will the people have in the sincerity of our professions or the good faith of our ultimate action. * * * I am in favor of that measure which embodies substantial repeal. The bill reported by the committee makes the salary $5,500, and that is the exact equivalent of the old law. When you go beyond that you go beyond the wishes of the people.

Mr. S. S. COX:

I think we were commanded by the "clamor" of the people to reinstate the salaries as they were; and having this command, men of all views voted for the bill of the gentlemen from Iowa and Ohio (Mr. Kasson and Mr. Jewett,) by an almost two-thirds majority. * * * * But I believe the fair expression of the House is not given in this bill. I therefore invite every man who hears me or heeds me to vote "no," so that hereafter we may have a better bill. I speak consciously of the vote of my people and of the Democracy of this country. [Laughter.] I know what I say. Gentlemen may smile. Let them go to their constituents and "smile" with them after another method.

Mr. KASSON:

Now, I ask my Republican friends upon this floor, can we, after the call has been issued to the country demanding their attention to our purpose to restore substantially the old law, after endorsing by an enormous majority the proposition of the gentleman from Indiana in the direction of fixing substantially the sum allowed by the old law—can we, instead of narrowing that in the interest of the people, expand it in the interest of ourselves? Mr. Speaker, we dare not, I venture to say, go before the country with such a lame and impotent conclusion of the call for attention which came from the Republican members of this House.

With these explanations, the people have a fair understanding of the motives which governed different members in their action. It was at best but a patching up of a bad job, and does not satisfy the people. If Congressmen do not learn this fact during the holidays, we shall be mistaken. The people have been mortified and disgusted at the action of Congress from the beginning. They expected better things of the new Congress. It was supposed that the old law would be repealed speedily and without that disgraceful discussion and still more disgraceful trimming which has characterized the action of members. The old law was so odious that the people demanded its unconditional repeal, and they also demanded that the salary of members of Congress be fixed, as near as possible, at what it was before the grab was made.

☞The prostration of the Emperor of Germany by an attack of apoplexy, may well excite the alarm of his friends and cause the German people to look with interest into the future.

SECTARIAN SCHISMS.

It is well that denominational union was not the ostensible object for which the recent Evangelical Alliance convened, and that therefore, its assembling is not responsible for the schisms which have occurred in different religious organizations immediately after its adjournment. Church unity is as impossible as the amicable union under one roof of many brothers and sisters after marriage, and the begetting of families, and, therefore, we cannot understand why many of our contemporaries allude to the "Episcopal Schism," "The Secession of Plymouth Church," and the organization of the "Church of the People," a seceding Baptist movement, in connection with the harmonious meetings, typical of peace and friendship which so recently united the Christian denominations of the world in friendly intercourse and friendly reunion.

All these so-called schisms, which the unthinking deplore as indicative of the decay of Christianity, only evince its vitality, and result from that independence of thought which is the outgrowth of free institutions. In a country whose intelligence is directed by a free press, free thought and free speech, ideas of religion cannot be embalmed like Egyptian mummies in the traditions of ages, but must, *nolens volens*, adapt themselves to the progressive spirit of their believers and professors. This is demonstrated by the fact that the above mentioned schisms are not of recent origin. The movement inaugurated by Bishop CUMMINS has long been prepared for, its remote causes having been in existence, and under agitation for many years. The Ritualistic controversy of the Anglican Church which has smouldered since its establishment in the sixteenth century, has burnt into a blazing flame within the last few years, the so-called Romanizing party having gained in activity, while the anti-ritualistic or "Low Church" party have as determinedly opposed their innovations. The rupture in the Congregational Church, through which Plymouth Church organized itself into a seperate society, is in conformity with our national spirit of independence, which refuses parental discipline or interference after attaining years of majority. Of the exact motive which brought about the organization of the "Church of the People," in Brooklyn, we are ignorant, but as it has the sympathy and co-operation of many of the most influential among the clergy and laity of Baptist Churches of New York and Brooklyn, it is fair to presume that it meets the demands of those who have outgrown the tenets of their early creeds.

There is room enough for all those new denominations and new sects, and so long as each enjoys its own peculiar belief without interfering with the rights or its neighbor, bearing malice towards none and charity to all, agreeing to disagree amicably, true Christianity will not suffer thereby, and no fears need be entertained that hereafter, as heretofore, believers and clergymen of various denominations cannot meet together to exchange ideas and discuss the advancement of those more important truths about which they entertain no difference of opinion.

☞The eulogy delivered by Mr. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, at the memorial service of the late WILLIAM H. SEWARD, is giving rise to much discussion regarding its truthfulness from prominent statesmen who differ with the eminent orator of that occasion. In the *Galaxy*, ex-Secretary WELLS and the Hon. JEREMIAH L. BLACK have attacked with telling force the veracity of Mr. ADAMS, the article of Mr. WELLS being direct and fortified with facts, though evincing strong personal dislike, which naturally would bias his reasoning powers, while Mr. BLACK accords no especial merit whatever to Mr. SEWARD, either as a lawyer, a statesman or a man. Mr. ADAMS was an intimate friend and a warm admirer of Mr. SEWARD, and as such may have somewhat exaggerated and overestimated him, and otherwise committed errors upon points with which he was unfamiliar, owing to his absence from America. Nevertheless, the verdict of public opinion appears to be that Mr. ADAMS is quite as near the truth as Mr. WELLS or Mr. BLACK. Mr. ADAMS may with more propriety be accused of doing injustice to the memory of Mr. LINCOLN, than overestimating the talents and services of Mr. SEWARD. The latter was his intimate friend, while he neither knew nor cared to know the former, and therefore was unfitted to judge of those excellencies of character which place the name of LINCOLN in an exalted niche of the Temple of Fame.

☞One IGNATIUS DONNELLY, of Minnesota, was not a very successful member of Congress, so his constituents permitted him, unsolicited, to retire into private obscurity. DONNELLY did not relish this disposition of his brilliant parts, so he has gone into the Farmers' movement. A Minnesota paper, in view of DONNELLY'S knowledge of farming, has published the following lines for the use of serenading parties who may call upon the ex-Congressman. The lines are entitled, "A Node to Farmer DONNELLY:"

Oh, come, my love and live with me;
And keep my cottage in the glen,
As patient as a bumble-bee,
As busy as a setting hen.

Beyond the vermicelli row
I hear the bull frog's sigh again—
The cackle of the Durham ewe—
The bellow of the Berkshire hen.

Oh, come, love, come! the morn is fair,
I'll celebrate the day with thee;
I'll merrily dig the Bartlett pear,
And shake the ruta baga tree.

Oh, bump yourself my lovely Poll,
And in the cause of anti-monop,
We'll mulch the turkeys in the Fall,
And graft the long clam on the hop.

My sweetest! I am fond of mush,
And thou wilt set some out for me;
We'll early sow the current bush,
And tap the cranberry jelly tree.

We'll pull the wool from off the calf,
The cotton-wood its fleece shall shed,
So at the winter we will laugh,
And gayly weed the oyster bed.

We'll blithely hoe the winter wheat;
We'll chase the eggs the squirrels lay
And when the Bantam hog shall bleat,
We'll feed him with some clover hay.

☞The Chicago *Tribune* has been exposing the frauds of sirup manufacturers. It is claimed that artificial sugar sirup is made by the use of sulphuric acid. It cites a case where the cork in a keg containing sirup sent out a few weeks ago for the winter supply of a lumbering camp was completely corroded by this acid. Also, another case, in which a whole family was troubled with severe burning at the stomach and violent headache for several days, which symptoms disappeared when the family ceased to use sirup at the breakfast table. The *Tribune* has no doubt but many persons have lost their health, and some their lives, by the use of these sirups.

☞A large party left Salt Lake for New York a few weeks since, and another last week, consisting of deluded people from the rural districts of Northern and Central Europe, who, through gross deceptions practiced upon them by Mormon emissaries, had been induced to emigrate to the "Country of the Latter Day Saints," and who, upon being undeceived, returned to their native land. Numerous other parties contemplate imitating their example. BRIGHAM YOUNG is now over seventy and in feeble health, and there is every reason for believing that the odious and immoral system to which he has given such power, will pass away with his death, many evidences of its decay being already manifest.

☞Senator CONKLING is said to be an aspirant for the Presidency. His friends should endeavor to keep the disease under such control as to disarm disappointment of fatal consequences. The Senator would undoubtedly make an able and acceptable Chief Executive, but our most able statesmen have been peculiarly unfortunate, since the early days of the Republic, in their aspirations after Presidential honors. It is possible that the people are now prepared to return to the practice of the fathers of the Republic and select the most able men for the Presidency, but there is room for very serious doubt upon that point.

☞The New York *Times* administers the following deserved rebuke to those members of Congress who indulged, on Thursday, in calling each other "dirty dogs," and like epithets:

As we believe that we can fill our columns to greater advantage than by publishing a mass of scurrility and profanity, we omit, to-day the larger part of the report of the proceedings in the House of Representatives yesterday. If the members of the House desired to prove that they did not deserve the praise we bestowed upon them recently, they have certainly accomplished their object. The discussion which has taken place on the Salary bill, thus far, has been thoroughly disgraceful to a body of men presumed to possess average intelligence. The tone of yesterday's "debate" was worthy of a set of rowdies of the Fourth Ward. We decline to defile our columns with any part of it. If the members of the House have sacrificed all sense of public decency, we are fortunately not obliged to follow their example. It is part of our business to report discussions in Congress on public affairs, but we have something better to do than to fill these pages with personal abuse and blasphemous harangues. Throughout this session we shall suppress all reports of scandalous "rows" in Congress, and perhaps if every paper were to follow the same course, the temptations of the blatherskites in Washington to get up a "free fight" would be considerably reduced.

☞The Bishops of the so-called "High Church" of England are beginning to see the fallacy of seeking to undo the work of the Reformation by the institution of the "Confessional" and other rites and ceremonials of the Church of Rome, not in accord with the ideas of Protestantism. Twelve English Bishops have replied affirmatively to a memorial asking for the repression of all Romanizing practices, averring that they consider it their duty to the full extent of their power to discourage all similar attempts.

☞When the panic first occurred, extensive jobbing houses extended the time of their debtors to three or six months. As this time draws to a close, many small dealers find themselves in no better condition than at the commencement of the crisis and are compelled to suspend. Those who had an extension of six months may yet be saved should Congress do its duty promptly; otherwise, the next three months must witness a repetition of the disasters which have characterized the first three months of the panic.

☞The Union Pacific Railroad, because it contracted to carry troops, etc., for the Government, claimed to be in the service of the Government in a sense which should free it from taxation by the States through which it runs. Nebraska was not disposed to accept this view of the case, so she brought suit for the recovery of taxes against the Road in the United States Supreme Court. The Court decided that the Road should pay.

☞The House of Representatives on the 17, passed a bill fixing the salaries of members of Congress at $6,000 per annum, and also reducing the pay of Cabinet officers and the President. That is not exactly the repeal of the salary law, as demanded by the people. It is a compromise between the greed of Congress and the imperative demands of the Country. It will not do to keep up high salaries and increase the taxes of the people.

☞The defaulting Treasurer of Chicago can turn over property to the city aggregating in value about $20,000 less than his defalcation, and this satisfies the virtue of that city. Just what per cent. of restored stolen property will excuse the theft in Chicago, is not stated. It should be made known. A certain class of persons would be interested in that kind of information.

☞The Pittsburg *Commercial* puts it thus: "The course which Congress has thus far pursued with regard to the back pay question is not altogether satisfactory. What the people look for, and have a right to expect, is reparation—not compromise."

☞WENDELL PHILLIPS has no objection to GRANT'S election for the third term, provided he will hold the ship of State straight on her course. He is not particular who stands at the helm, provided the ship makes a straight wake.

THE MEMPHIS SCOURGE.

The Yellow Fever in Memphis—A Graphic Picture of the Sufferings Endured—Men, Women and Children Died for Want of Attention.

A lady resident of Memphis, who lost a husband during the late terrible scourge of that city, and who suffered from an attack of the yellow fever, writes to a brother in this city, under date of the 12th inst., giving a most interesting and thrilling account of the terrible sufferings endured by the afflicted people. We have been permitted to publish it, as follows:

Since the advent of the late epidemic many a letter have I begun to write you, which ended after a few lines with some hasty summons to the bedside of the sick or dying. Perhaps, even at this late hour, as I review the scenes so burned into our souls, some items may at least serve to quicken the pulses of gratitude among those who have been spared such terrible visitation and attendant consequences.

Between the river and Front street, for some three or four squares, is the low tract misnamed "Happy Hollow," peopled with the lowest classes, principally Irish. Here the yellow fever first found lodgement, probably about the latter part of August; but, from mistaken motives, our physicians failed to announce its presence, and so it was, that "the cloud, at first no bigger than a man's hand," grew to overshadow all our hearts and homes. Our Board of Health existed only in name. Although composed of our most scientific physicians, it had no means, no power whatever, except to prepare mortuary lists. All suggestions as to sanitary measures were treated with contempt, until they were forced to resign to save their self-respect. From the Mayor down, all the city officials sought a precedent instead of making one, until at last they made the fearful one that should stand as a warning forever against neglect of God's physical laws—the precedent of virtually sending from 2,000 to 3,000 of our citizens to untimely graves.

This fearful mortality will seem the more fearful when it is considered that out of our population of 60,000 it was estimated that no more than 10,000 remained in the city. Could Toledo afford to lose that proportion of her population because it was "not so nominated in the bond," that is, the city charter? It seems that these same city officials enjoyed a special immunity from this disease, for none were attacked save the mayor, who after the worst had been brought upon us through his most "masterly inactivity," really went to work like a christian. He had a light attack, just enough to give him an easier letting down at the January election—perhaps to re-elect him

Can you think of block after block of stores with the significant notice, "Closed on account of the epidemic," or still others, where the crape fluttering to the breeze told the story more sorrowfully? For a long time, on Main street, for the space of ten squares, there was but one family grocery open. Had it not been for the Howard Association and City Relief wagons that were constantly going, after the organizations were effected, many more must have died, for not one in ten of those living in the northern part of the city was able to go for food. Were they well themselves, feet and hands and hearts were busy with those who *were* sick. Passing one evening along an infected street we saw, on a porch, a gentleman with a weeping child clinging to him. "Won't you come in?" said he, "though perhaps I ought not to ask you, for we have yellow fever here; but my wife is very low, and my little girl is dying, and there is nobody that comes near." Poor man! he was worn out with watching for ten days and nights. For one week we staid by their bedside, seeing the plague strike the other darling down to death, it is hurried through the last white robing, for the saffron hue was fast over-spreading the sweet face, and another child elsewhere needed us. I had been asked to step into an adjoining house. No one answered the bell, the house was open, and I advanced from room to room until reaching the kitchen. I asked black aunty where were the sick. "Up stairs; just go up dar, you'll find 'em." On entering the first room there lay an old lady barely able to speak. After being somewhat revived by bathing and other attentions, she asked me to see to them in the next room where lay her daughter and son-in-law. A glance told me that for the young husband, all was past hope. In another bed lay the wife—with a violent fever—too feeble to realize the true state of matters, and in a chair, bolt-upright sat the four year old baby, asleep—there was no one to care for her. I tenderly placed her on the bed beside her dying father, until her nap was over, and then sent her to my own house; but the poison had already entered her veins, and she too was soon a sufferer. The neglect was painful in this case. Not a soul had entered the house that day save the doctor, and doctors' visits those days were the briefest. It was enough to make the heart weep blood, as the poor man gazed into his wife's eyes and asked, "Oh darling, are you going to send me to the hospital? What else can you do, for we are all dying for the want of a little care?" Next day, on his coffin plate was, "Aged 27," and then should have been added "died from lack of Christian charity." These were people of intelligence and refinement and position. In five adjoining houses on this street were fourteen cases—one half proving fatal. In an upper room of a tenement house lay a poor young widow, whose only child had died the previous night, and at noon, no kind hand had even removed it from the mother's side. I found time to run in in the afternoon, but some one had hastily performed the last offices, and as the hearse moved away, I remained to soothe, as best I might, the poor mother. "My little girl is the seventh that has died out of this home," said she, "and I reckon we'll all die." Two doors beyond this was a meat store. Passing through this to a small rear room, lay the mother—a perfect bronze color—on a lounge, amid a pile of rags—a daughter aged 20, with face, neck and arms covered with black vomit and blood. How thankful she was to have me sponge it off. There had been no one all through these days to care for them, save the father, who was in intense pain from a bone felon. Next day when I went there the daughter lay dressed for the grave in her wedding clothes, bridal wreath and veil, for she was to have been married the next week. Poor girl! with how much joy she had stitched on those cheap bridal robes! There was the little sister, whom I had seen so bright and active a few hours before, tossing and delirious, lying on the floor on an old ragged quilt. She died too, after cruel days of anguish, and this was the story the mother told me: "Mrs. S., heretofore when our children have died we have been able to bury them decently; but now we have not a dollar in the house. To be sure we have between seven and eight hundred dollars charged on our books, but our customers are afflicted just as we are, many of them are dead, and my poor husband is down now with the fever. It hurt me so to put little Jennie, the last of four, away like a pauper. If I could get a decent little coffin, I would sell the clothes off my back to pay the debt I thought, perhaps, you'd see if the Howards put away the dead more decently." I started to ascertain, but meeting one of the good priests, told him the circumstances. He returned to the house with with me, wrote an order for a grave, and then I went with him to the undertakers, where he secured a decent little coffin. There were no mourners to follow little Jennie—except in heart.

I was asked one morning to go to a poor widow's house. On entering the one little, wretched room that made their home, I found the mother breathing her last. At the bedside, on her knees, was the daughter, aged thirteen, holding the "blessed candle" in her mother's blue, fast stiffening fingers, and trying, as best she might, through tears and sobs, to read the prayers for the dying, while devoutly kneeling near her were the little brothers. Did I not feel that I was on holy ground, as I stood reverently by until they rose from their devotions? Aye, verily! Their childish attentions had been all the poor mother received during her illness. Just as she died, from an adjoining room were carried the dead bodies of a man and his wife.

One night, as I lay on my restless pillow, trying to quiet heart and brain, the hearse stopped at the Franciscan Friars'—two doors from us. The convent bell rang, and muffled, shuffling feet carried in a heavy coffin. Death had invaded even those exclusive walls, and Father Leo, whom we have seen going on missions of mercy—no matter of how menial character, had passed to his reward. Then there came the odor of burning clothing, and presently I knew censers were swinging in the dim chapel, where the living prayed for the dead, and I wished they might remember all souls for affliction. Another priest, of a different order, died that night, and next morning there was a double funeral, for in the four parishes there were not enough well priests to celebrate the services at their respective churches. Here let me say that St. Bridget's congregation lost 800 members; St. Peter's, 200, and the German Catholic Church some 60 or 70. Not a Protestant church, but lost some from its fold.

At all hours, and in all places one met the devoted Catholic Sisters of each order, ministering as they only can minister to the suffering. Blessings on them! How very remote have they seemed from us till now, and how soon we learned to bespeak their services for "whoever needed," and never did they fail us. In black garb, or brown, not one did we know, save by their sweet faces and quick ministrations; by these shall we know the five whom we missed, because they went to heaven. I trust there is no protestant who cannot say to our priesthood "thou art my brother." Five of them laid down their lives in noble christian work. Rev. F. H. Bowman, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, also fell, doing his Master's work of love. There was no exemption—from priest to pariah—race and condition counted nought. Old age seemed most likely to escape. In a mortuary list of ninety-two, I find only eight who were fifty years of age. Cases, where the age ranged from 13 to 20 years, were almost all fatal.

Calling the physician, filling his prescription, making applications for nurses, sanitary or commissary supplies, soothing the living, robing their dead, but never following them, nobody went to funerals—such was our work for weeks. It was one of the sad features of this disease, that one's friend stood aloof. No bells were tolled, no service was held at church or house. Perhaps, if they knew it, enough friends would gather at the front gate to act as pall-bearers; but more frequently not. You followed your dead, upon whose face you had not been allowed to look, and stood waiting until the grave was finished. Others were waiting for their occupants all about you, and the poor grave-diggers were so tired. You were fortunate if your pastor was with you to read a few brief texts of comfort, and offer a prayer. Then you come home, to a desolate home, perhaps to take up your work alone—the other "was not."

But from out this affliction there are lessons of good. We ought to learn that physical laws cannot be violated with impunity. We have been visited by three epidemics within so many years—small pox, cholera and yellow fever—and have seen how dependent they are on each other. Many narrow prejudices have been laid aside, sectional and other, and there exists a broader spirit of charity among our churches. Even physicians have been willing to let healing come outside their particular school of practice, although all sorts of opinions have existed among them as to its origin, nature and mode of treatment. The honest among them confess their inability to *cure* it, by orthodox allopathic system, and seem convinced that it must run its course with less interference than any other disease. Our physicians worked hard and faithfully; that seven of this number fell at their posts is proof that *they* did not shrink from duty.

Christmas day is at hand; and while you observe its time honored customs—thank God that you have been spared the pestilence and its attendant consequences. I do not dare say how many widows and orphans there are, for they are thousands, and there must be great suffering this winter, if our charities are not carefully bestowed, and unless our authorities will at once adopt and enforce stringent sanitary measures our city will cease existence—or exist only through the same repeated horrors. God forbid! for from already bleeding hearts we pray, "Bring us unto thee—but not through blood and crosses."

F. W. G.

A Queer Criticism.

When Coventry Patmore's "Angel in the House" first appeared, the *Athenæum* critic, Henry Fothergill Chorley, wrote of it as follows:

The gentle reader we apprise, That this new Angel in the House Contains a tale not very wise, About a person and a Spouse. The author, gentle as a lamb, Has managed his rhymes to fit, And haply fancies he has writ Another "In Memoriam." How his intended gathered flowers, And took her tea and after sung, Is told in style somewhat like ours, For delectation of the young. But, reader, lest you say we quiz The poet's record of his she, Some little pictures you shall see, Not in our language, but in his:

"While thus I grieved and kissed her glove,
My man brought in her note to say
Papa had bid her send his love,
And hoped I'd dine with them next day;
They had learned and practiced Purcell's glee,
To sing it by to-morrow night;
The postscript was—her sisters and she
Inclosed some violets blue and white.

* * * * * * * *

"Restless and sick of long exile,
From those sweet friends, I rode to see
The church repairs, and after a while
Waylaying the Dean, was asked to tea.
They introduced the Cousin Fred
I'd heard of; Honor's favorite; grave,
Dark, handsome, bluff, but gently bred,
And with an air of the salt wave."

Fear not this saline Cousin Fred; He gives no tragic mischief birth; There are no tears for you to shed, Unless they may be tears of mirth. From ball to bed, from field to farm, The tale flows nicely purling on; With much conceit there is no harm, In the love-legend here begun. The rest will come another day, If public sympathy allows; And this is all we have to say About the "Angel in the House."

☞Out at Dallas, Texas, recently, the *Enterprise* of that place made the following announcement: "Owing to JOHN ROBINSON'S circus being in town, the regular Thursday evening prayer meeting has been postponed."

To Our Correspondents.

Questions for this department of the BLADE should be written plainly, and on one side of the sheet only. They should be kept separate from communications regarding subscriptions, books, specimen copies, and other matters of a purely business character. The latter either should be written on a separate sheet, or with a blank line dividing them from the questions. The full name and address should accompany each letter.

J. J., Sunberry, O.—We are sorry that none of the books at present on our list contain the instruction desired. We can, however, recommend as a valuable book "The Painter, Gilder and Varnisher's Companion," published by Henry C. Baird, 406 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

JAMES ARCHIBALD.—Isn't it possible that Mr. Archibald may have got his dates somewhat confused? Slaves were held in a large number of British Colonies up to Aug. 1st, 1834.

MRS. L. A. D., Fairview, Ill.—The error in the message as published is probably only a typographical one. The Virginius left New York early in October last, and proceeded at once toward Cuba. She might have taken on her crew and passengers without coming within the jurisdiction of the United States, but that she did not do so is evident from the fact that she took out U. S. clearing papers.

C. E. F., Guttenberg, Iowa.—The Lebanon, Ohio, Normal School is one of the best institutions of its kind and has a widespread reputation. That at Bloomington, Ill., is also a good school for fitting teachers for their work. We can give you no definite information regarding the homeopathic institution concerning which you ask.

L. H. J. Emporia, Pa.—The Thos. E. Bramlette advertised as the manager of the Gift Concerts of the Kentucky Public Library, was Governor of Kentucky in 1867. The managers of the Library Concerts are men of standing in Louisville, and all that is promised in their advertisements will be performed.—The Ohio is bridged at Cincinnati, Steubenville Louisville and Bellaire, and the Mississippi at several places.—Sam Patch lost his life at Rochester, (Genesee Falls) not Niagara.—Boss Tweed is 66 years of age.—There is coal in great quantities in Georgia.—Gold is found in that State and also in North Carolina.—Your last question we cannot answer.

INQUIRER, Brook Valley, N. Y.—The "Roseland of Almahain" is a fictitious country (probably one of the provinces of Persia.) but we cannot at present give you the origin of the term. The reason for spelling ten times four "forty" is probably a mere matter of euphony and convenience, at least we have never heard any other reason.

STUDENT.—One of the best works for the purpose of gaining an understanding of the views held by Englishmen regarding the American revolution is the "Constitutional History of England," by Thomas May Erskine C. B. This embraces the period from the accession of George III. (1760) to 1860.

DISPUTANT, Mannington, W. Va.—Some five years since a law was passed by the legislature of Ohio, requiring all physicians who had not done so, to obtain a diploma from some regularly chartered institution, but making an exception in favor of those who had already been practicing ten years at the time of the passage of the law. There has been, we believe, no change or modification of the law. We cannot inform you how many of the States have laws similar to this, but we believe there are several.

A READER OF THE BLADE, West Mitchell, Iowa.—It is not necessary to become naturalized in order to avail yourself of the homestead law. A simple declaration is enough. An applicant for naturalization in this country must have resided within the United States for the continued term of five years previous to the date of his application, and for one year within the jurisdiction of the State by which he is admitted. If "a reader" will send us his full name, we can mail him some interesting information regarding Kansas, but our space will not permit any details in this column.

YOUNG AMERICAN.—Rimesburg, Pa.—Sir William Wallace, the Scottish Patriot, was executed at Smithfield, Aug. 23, 1305, by King Edward of England, to whom he had been betrayed by a son of the Earl of Monteith.—The ore of the celebrated Iron Mountain in Washington county, Mo., is a pure per oxide, and should produce seventy per cent. of iron; in actual working, however, it produces only fifty-six per cent. of pig iron.—The Modoc Indians, during their campaign, were located in the vicinity of Pitt River, and to the southeast of Rhett Lake.—We have never seen any explanation of the derivation of the name of the Irish city.—A gentleman, on leaving a small party, should not ask to be excused, but if he is withdrawing permanently, he should take a quiet opportunity for making his adieus to the hostess, expressing his thanks for the pleasure received, etc.—The curvature of the earth's surface is, we believe, one inch to the mile. A straight line might be drawn between any two points, provided they were not obliged to conform to that curvature.

A SUBSCRIBER, Desmoines, Iowa.—The BLADE employs no subscription agents to do general canvassing, finding it much better to encourage the work of local agents in the counties and neighborhoods where they are known. And yet many local agents find their efforts in canvassing for our publications so successful that they frequently extend their work into different parts of their own and other counties. These men are bona fide agents, and yet our advice to you and to all others on this point is, "to avoid any possibility of error, do not pay money for our publications to any stranger, unless you have satisfactory evidence that he is reliable and in all respects what he represents himself to be.

E. H. R., South Bend, Ind.—The first part of Mr. Locke's new story, "John Duncan's Widow," has been issued from the press and mailed to subscribers and others ordering. The Monthly has been unfortunately delayed in the hands of the printers, but will be all right hereafter.

A YOUNG FARMER, Celina, O.—A good authority on the culture of peanuts says: "Select a soil which is fertile with sandy loam; plant about the usual time of planting corn; remove the husk from the seed before planting. Plant two seeds in a hill, two inches in depth, in rows three feet apart and one foot apart in the rows; keep the ground mellow and free from weeds. Some make ridges like those prepared for sweet potatoes, but it is not essential. Level deep cultivation will be the best, if the season is a very dry one. The early cultivation may be mostly done with horse power, but the later working must be done with a hand hoe. The yield varies from 50 to 150 bushels per acre. When dug, they should be spread to dry under a roof, and those for planting kept from freezing. A stout four-pronged fork is used for digging them.

BASHFUL, Willoughby, O.—The case of this correspondent, according to his own statement, is as follows: "A few days since myself and a young gentleman friend made a call at the house of a lady where we had often been pleasantly received. On ringing we were ushered into the hall, and caught a glimpse through the open parlor door, of the two young ladies cozily seated at a table, where they were playing some kind of a game with two gentlemen. My companion was for going into the parlor at once, but I declined to do so, on the ground that the gentlemen were evidently invited guests, and that our entrance would be an intrusion. My companion took the opposite view, but upon my insisting, we both withdrew from the house without entering the parlor at all."—We think there can be no question that your action was entirely wrong. Courtesy both to the young ladies and their guests would require your entrance after having called, though your stay under the circumstances should be a short one.

AN ENQUIRER, Palmyra, N. Y.—Various plans have been tried for preventing the formation in boilers of that crust which is technically called "scale." The "scale" is composed almost entirely of the earthy salts, carbonate of lime and magnesia, and these are deposited when the operation of boiling liberates the free carbonic acid which the water contains. Sal soda, which is called in chemistry carbonate of soda, is probably the cheapest and most effectual means of removing this scale. For a boiler of fifteen or twenty horse power introduce two pounds of sal soda every three weeks for three months. Put in the soda just before blowing off, and after that is accomplished scrape out what is left at the bottom of the boiler.

SUBSCRIBER, Morgan, Buck county, Pa.—The best directions we know of for keeping bees through the winter are given in the AMERICAN FARM JOURNAL for November. If you will send us your full name (which you did not do in your letter) we will send you a copy containing the article without charge.

AN OLD FARMER, St. Clairsville, Ohio.—The book just issued by the Chase Publishing Co., of Toledo, Ohio, under the title of "Dr. Chase's Family Physician, Farrier, Bee-Keeper and Second Receipt Book," is an excellent work, and can be fully depended on as perfectly reliable. Dr. Chase is a man of ripe experience, and his book is not prepared in the interests of any one else than the public at large. We can cordially commend the book for your use.

ANONYMOUS, Pittsburg, Pa.—We do not ask you to send your name with all questions, in order that we may publish it. We prefer not to use the full name of correspondents, as a general rule, and never do so where there is any intimation that such use of the name is not desired. For example, in several cases recently, correspondents have sent us inquiries regarding some process or operation which had been described in some of our publications, comparatively recently. The article so published is generally too long to copy into this column, but as no name is sent, we cannot mail a copy as we should otherwise be glad to do. The same remarks apply to letters which might be answered by mail if we had the proper address.

W. M. T.—While we cannot now give you a definite answer, we reply to your question that we can procure the second book mentioned, if we succeed in making an arrangement with the publishers to add it to our lists for 1874, as we contemplate doing. The writer of the Rocky Mountain letters signed "Lucas," is our regular contributor "Richard Grant."

WINCHESTER.—For an answer to your question we refer you to the paragraph written to W. M. T. We have no permission from "Lucas" to give his real name.

THE VIRGINIUS.

Opinion of Attorney General Williams.

The following is the opinion of Attorney General Williams in the Virginius case:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
WASHINGTON, December 17th, 1873.

Hon. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State:

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst., submitting to me a large number of documents and depositions, and asking for my opinion as to whether or not the Virginius, at the time of her capture by the Spanish man of war Tornado, was entitled to carry the flag of the United States, and whether or not she was carrying it improperly and without right at the time.

These questions arise under the protocol of the 29th ult., between the Spanish Minister and the Secretary of State, in which, among other things, it is agreed that on the 25th of January Spain shall salute the flag of the United States; but it is further provided that if Spain should prove to the satisfaction of the United States that the Virginius was not entitled to carry the flag of the United States, and was carrying it at the time of the capture without right and improperly, that the salute will be spontaneously dispensed with, as in such cases not being necessarily required; but the United States will expect in such a case a disclaimer of the intent of indignity to its flag in the act which was committed.

Section one of the act of December 31st, 1792, provided that ships or vessels registered pursuant to such act and no other, except such as shall be duly qualified according to law for carrying on the coasting trade, and denominated or deemed vessels or ships of the United States, shall be entitled to the benefits and privileges appertaining to such ships. Section 4 of the same act provides for an oath by which, among other things, to obtain registry of a vessel, the owner is required to swear that he is not a subject or citizen of any foreign State or province, directly or indirectly, by way of trust, confidence or otherwise, interested in such vessel or ship, or in the profits or issues thereof. Obviously, therefore, no vessel in which a foreigner is interested, is entitled to a United States registry; and if one is obtained by false oath as to that point and fact, that vessel is owned or partly owned by foreigners, and she cannot be deemed a vessel of the United States, or entitled to the benefits or privileges appertaining to such vessels.

The Virginius was registered in New York on the 26th of September, 1870, in the name of Patterson, who made oath as required by law, but the depositions submitted abundantly show that in fact Patterson was not the owner at that time, but that the vessel was the property of certain Cuban citizens in New York, who furnished the necessary funds for her purchase. J. E. Shepherd, who commanded said vessel when she left New York with the certificate of her register in the name of Patterson, testified positively that he entered into an agreement to command said vessel at an interview between Quesada, Mora, Patterson and others, at which it was understood that the Virginius belonged to Quesada, Mora and other Cubans, and that Mora exhibited to him receipts of the purchase money, and for repairs and supplies upon said steamer, and explained to him how the said funds were raised among the Cubans in New York. Adolphos de Varona, who was Secretary of the Cuban Mission in New York, at the time the Virginius was purchased, and afterward sailed in her as Quesada's Chief-of-Staff, testifies that he was acquainted with all the details of the transaction, and knows that the Virginius was purchased with the funds of Cubans, and with the understanding and arrangement that Patterson should appear as nominal owner, because foreigners could not obtain a United States register for the vessel.

Francis Brown, Charles Smith, Edward Greenwood, John McCarn, Matthew Murphy, Ambrose Rawlings, Thomas Gallagher, John Furlong, Thomas Anderson, and Geo. W. Miller, who were employed upon the Virginius in various capacities, after she was registered in the name of Patterson, testify clearly to the effect that they were informed and understood while they were upon the vessel that she belonged to Quesada and Cebano, represented by him, and that he navigated, controlled and treated the vessel in all respects as though it was his property.

Nothing appears to weaken the force of this testimony, though the witnesses were subjected to cross-examination; but on the contrary, all the circumstances of the case lead to its corroboration. With the oath for registry, that statute requires a bond to be given, signed by the owner, captain and one or more sureties; but there were no sureties upon the bond given by Patterson and Shepherd. Pains have been taken to ascertain if there was any insurance upon the vessel, but nothing of the kind has been found; and Quesada, Varone and other Cubans who took passage upon the Virginius, instead of going on board at the wharf in the navy yard, went aboard a tug after the vessel had left the harbor of New York.

I cannot do otherwise than to hold upon this evidence that Patterson's oath was false, and that the register obtained in his name was a fraud upon the navigation laws of the United States. Assuming the question to be, what appears so conform to the intent of the protocol, whether or not the Virginius at the time of her capture had the right, as against the United States to carry the American flag, I am of the opinion that she had no right, because she had not been registered according to law; but I am also of the opinion that she was as much exempt from the interference on the high seas by another power on that ground as though she had been lawfully registered.

Spain, no doubt, has a right to capture a vessel with an American register and carrying the American flag found in her own waters, assisting or endeavoring to assist insurrection in Cuba, but she has no right to capture such vessel on the high seas upon an apprehension that in violation of the neutrality or navigation laws of the United States, she was on her way to assist said rebellion. Spain may defend her territory and people from hostile attack of what is or appears to be an American vessel, but she has no jurisdiction whatever over the question as to whether or not such vessel is on the high seas in violation of any law of the United States. Spain cannot rightfully raise that question as to the Virginius, but the United States may, and, as I understand the protocol, they have agreed to do it, and will be governed by that agreement, and without admitting that Spain would otherwise have interest in the question, I decide that the Virginius, at the time of her capture, was without right and improperly carrying the American flag.

Very respectfully,
GEORGE H. WILLIAMS,
Attorney General.

THE VILLE DU HAVRE.

Statement of a Passenger.

The New York Tribune publishes a second letter from Rudolph A. Withans, Jr., who was a passenger on the ill-fated Ville du Havre, to his father in New York. He writes as follows:

In my last I gave you a sketch of my experience in connection with the sinking of the Ville du Havre. I will now give you my opinions concerning the cause of the accident, &c. From all that I can gather from the officers and men, I conclude that the blame rests entirely with the officer on watch on the steamer, whose duty it was to get out of the Loch Earn's way, and it appears that, instead of doing this, he done the very opposite, altering the course of the steamer so as to run right across the bows of the Loch Earn. At least so says the officer who was on watch on the latter boat at the time of the collision. In any case, it is an acknowledged rule of the sea that a steamer is bound to get out of the way of a sailing craft. As the night was clear and calm the accident can only have occurred through some inexcusable blunder of those in charge of the steamer.

After the accident, if it can be so called, had occurred and while the ship was sinking, the officers and crew behaved in a cowardly manner—the latter, I know, and the former I believe, looking out for themselves, leaving the women and children to look out for themselves, the only exception I observed being Dr. Audalt, whom I saw going below three or four minutes before the ship went down. I told him he would not have time to get up again, to which he answered that he must look after those who were crushed in their state rooms. He never came up again.

A significant fact and one needing no comment, is that not a single passenger was taken from the sinking ship by boats, all being picked up in the water, while at least 20 of the officers and crew reached the Loch Erne without wetting their shoes. Of Capt. Surmount's conduct I know nothing; those who saw him spoke well of him, and I do not think him directly to blame, but he is to blame for not having the crew under better discipline and for not having his boats in a better condition to be promptly lowered.

In great contrast with the demoralized condition of the crew was the coolness of the passengers, even women and children; no screaming or running about without an object. The women were in knots, praying quietly, while the men were looking around for life buoys or pieces of wood, or were making efforts to get one of the boats which the crew had abandoned clear of the ship so that it might float when the vessel sank.

Language fails me in expressing my admiration of and gratitude to the gallantry and generosity of the officers and crew of the Loch Earn and of the Tri Mountain. The former saved the greater part of us from the water, and both gave us clothing and did all in their power to make us as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. The French crew, on the contrary, were a mob of brutes and cowards.

The Labor Market.

In accordance with the programme adopted at a workingmen's meeting held at Turner Hall, Chicago, on the 22d, the committee appointed for that purpose went to the Council Chamber accompanied by an irregular procession, which numbered by the time they reached City Hall, perhaps 3,000 persons, and presented the resolutions adopted by Saturday's meeting, asking that the city give them work, or in the event of being unable, to furnish provisions to them and their families until work could be obtained.

The Chairman of the Committee, F. A. Hoffman, Jr., a young lawyer, made a short speech, to the effect that the resolutions embodied all that the workingmen desired of the City Government, and asking for their demands a careful hearing. The resolutions were read and referred, after some discussion, to a special committee, consisting of the Mayor, the Finance Committee and nine Aldermen, three from each division of the city, who will have a conference with a committee of the workingmen appointed for that purpose.

Mayor Calvin made a speech in reply to the Committee, assuring them of his sympathy with the class they represented, and his earnest desire to aid them in any practicable way.

The Committee then retired, and on reaching the crowd outside, the Chairman reported the result of their visit to the Council, and advised them to return to their homes. The crowd, a large portion of which appeared to have gathered more out of curiosity than anything else, then dispersed.

INCIDENTS IN AGASSIZ'S LIFE.

His Love for Children—Personal Popularity—Methods of Work—His Chief Helpmate.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., Dec. 17.—Cambridge had no greater light in her firmament than the one which death extinguished on Sunday night. Somehow, when you passed by Agassiz's house, you felt less in need of your overcoat than when you passed the doors of certain of the notables who live in and around Boston. It was always sunshine when Agassiz was near. He was one whom the "common people heard gladly." He had a kind word and a beaming face for everybody, and he imparted to others something of his own joyous mood. He had his sorrowful moments, his occasions of anxiety, when the expressions of his face took a painful significance, and one could see that there was some burden pressing upon him; but let him meet a friend, especially a child, and the shadow fled from his face so quickly that in the after-warmth you forgot there had been any there. Grasp his hand, and you never found it cold.

It was this greatness of heart that caused him to make such a host of friends and acquaintances among all classes. He was one of those men whom, when sick, the butcher, the baker, the grocery man, and the laborer always ask about. He was a great lover of children. He was constantly speaking to them in the street and caressing them, not from affectation or a desire to be popular, but because he could not help it. His grandchildren, George and Max, were always running over to see grandpa, and grandpa was always glad to see them. If grandpa had had the entire training of them, perhaps they would have been spoiled children.

A friend tells me of an instance which well illustrates his tenderness for children. Once while conducting some scientific experiments, it became necessary to have some water immediately. Agassiz seized a pitcher and ran out to a pump near by. He went out quickly, but was slow in coming back. They waited twice as long for the water as would have sufficed to bring it, and then went out to see what was the matter. There sat Agassiz, down by the pump, his legs crossed, and a little child, which he was fondly soothing and caressing, nestled in between them. In his haste at the pump he had accidentally struck the child standing near by. Though the blow was of little account, the exigencies of science seemed to him the less important, and he had to put down his pitcher and open his heart. When deeply engaged in scientific investigation he would leave his work to seize and fondle a child that had strayed into his room, and the interrupted mental process seemed to be resumed without difficulty.

Agassiz was a philanthropist by nature. He was fond of "doing good as he had opportunity."

"Who can I get to make some drawings for me?" I asked once.

"Take——; he is a good draughtsman, and he needs the money; it will help him along."

One day from my window I noticed a horse and buggy standing in the street. The horse had been carelessly hitched, and worked himself loose, and, having moved a little way out in the street, seemed inclined to go off with an empty wagon. A student and a minister of the gospel in turn passed that way, but neither made any effort to keep the horse from straying. Presently I saw Agassiz coming down the avenue, apparently absorbed in deep thought, his eyes bent upon the ground. He stopped when he got to the horse, and, without seeming to take his thought off the subject on which he was engaged, picked up the hitching strap, tied the horse, and went on, leaving the owner ignorant that anybody had done him a favor.

It is one of the traditions among the old belles of Cambridge that when Agassiz came there he was regarded as the handsomest man they had seen. The tradition does not need much testimony; for even to the day of his death he was handsome, especially when he smiled. It was wonderful what an illuminating effect that smile had. His personal attractions, geniality and attention to little courtesies, always made him a favorite among the ladies. They attended his school in large numbers. There was not a great deal of discipline there: the rule was that you must speak in French, but there was a great deal of whispering in English which the teacher somehow overlooked. This worship of the man was not confined to Cambridge. It would be hard to name a place in the country where Agassiz has been that he was not affectionately canonized. On his return from the Hassler expedition he could not slip quietly into the Lowell Institute to hear his friend Tyndall lecture without being observed and compelled by a perfect thunderstorm of applause to bow again and again his recognition of the tribute. He was a sort of Pope in Boston.

"Do you see that man sitting over in that corner there?" said an intelligent reporter of a Boston paper to me.

"Yes."

"Well, that is Agassiz. He knows everything."

He was always indifferent to money where science was concerned. He spent it lavishly whenever he could get it, often for things which would not make show for the public, but which were invaluable for the pursuit of scientific truth. He was not a business man nor a financier. If he wanted money for his museum he would appeal to his friends and the public, and was sure to get it. Then he would spend it rapidly for collections or improvements, confident that he could get more when he needed it.

* * * * * * *

It may be a fact less familiar to the public, but it is one well known to Prof. Agassiz's friends, that his wife was his complement and in every sense a helpmate. What the Professor lacked in order, method or business habits, was abundantly supplied by Mrs. Agassiz. It was her graceful and assiduous pen that recast and put into more classic molds the Professor's ready English. It was her constant encouragement and stimulus that supported the Professor in new and difficult undertakings. Her counsel was always listened to with respect. It is safe to say that we should not have had so many of his works put in a permanent form in English if it had not been for her earnest co-operation. The Professor, as all know, was a ready lecturer, and always delivered his addresses without manuscript. In all his lectures and speeches near home Mrs. Agassiz accompanied him whenever possible, and took copious notes, and thus preserved the thought for future use. All his communications for the press passed through her hands. She wrote much from his dictation, attended to a great many of his business details, and in a thousand ways forwarded his work. Every word of praise we bestow on the silent dead is an unuttered recognition of her who shared alike his labors and his rewards.

Let us hope that she who knew him better than any or all of us, may crown this life of devotion by completing and giving to the world her own record—long since begun—of the genius and work of him whose departure has left such a void in our hearts.

Oysters and Journalism.

Though we may think ourselves masters of the heavy puff, the brazen *reclame*, or the startling advertisement, they manage these kinds of things much better in France. A newspaper in the United States, and it might be a good one, seeks additional subscribers by offers of a chromo, or Miss Jones' Poems, (Idyls of the heart.) Price 37½ cents, or a washing machine, but did our enterprising publisher ever think of the allurements of a fat turkey about Thanksgiving, or a barrel of Newton pippins at Christmas tide?

The French are devoted to oysters. Did not Louis XI feast his learned professors at the Sorbonne once a year on oysters? There was the great soldier, Turgot, too, who used to bring back his failing appetite with a hundred oysters or so. Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot, Helvetius and all the encyclopedists, loved oysters, as well as did Thackeray. Even the tigers of France, the Dantons and the Robespierres, devoured oysters, though whether Napoleon cared for them much, is doubtful. Brilliat Savarin, the most learned of gastronomes! what brilliant thoughts he has devoted to oysters, and Gastaldi, a martyr to his love of good things, was said to have swallowed forty dozen oysters at a single sitting, and then to have died gloriously of an indigestion from over feeding on pate de fore gras!

With appetites no doubt whetted by their recent privations, the Parisian of to-day hungers much after oysters. Ostend oysters, are worth five sous a piece, while Marenne oysters, with their green bronze color, their coppery flavor the *bon bouche* of the gourmand, are worth as much. Within the last ten years, the oyster beds of Rechelle, Marenne and Rochefort, and those of the Isles of Ree and Oleron, were becoming exhausted. The French Vitellius, was coming near to the utter deprivation of his favorite bivalve, when Coste discovered how these French oyster beds could be renewed, and how oysters could be made as plentiful as in Cæsar's time.

Grand oyster companies are then very much in vogue in France to-day, full descriptions of which may be found in Louis Figuier's pleasant work called "The Ocean World," and the profit arising from oyster culture seems to be quite large. There is a famous paper in Paris called the *Figaro*, remarkable not only for the brilliancy of its articles, but because once a week some member of the editorial staff is certain to have an affair of honor on his hands. The President of the *Figaro* newspaper association has started an oyster company called "La Societe des Huitieres du Morobhan," and each new subscriber to the paper is to have for the price of the journal besides the *Figaro*, a barrel of oysters sent to him.

This is an idea indeed worth imitating. Not to be too suggestive, perhaps a sporting paper might offer to the getter up of a club a trotting horse, a journal of health, a gross of patent medicines, and a political paper, a nomination as a custom house officer.

Unconscious Action of the Brain.

An organist of our acquaintance once told us of an odd experience that had happened to him, while playing for the people to sing in church. The tunes were of the simplest character, and he read the music from a book with the same ease one would read a newspaper. His readiness at reading and the great range of music he went over in a year made him forgetful, and he was at all times obliged to have the music before him. One Sunday while playing some old and familiar choral, he looked up at the pipes in that absent-minded way some organists have, and listened to the flood of music that rolled through the church. Suddenly he lost his place, and in alarm looked at the book to see where it was. He could not find it, could not tell whether it was the first or last line. He listened to the words, but he could not make out, and in a perfect fever of excitement went on playing. The perspiration started out on his face. He was in a curious state of mingled terror and helplessness, and through it all he went straight on and finished the tune correctly. When the verse was concluded he had a chance to recover his place, and the piece was finished without accident. On two other Sundays this singular experience happened to him, and each time his fingers gave the music without mistakes, while he could not tell what was going on.

Our friend said the only explanation he could give of this was that the brain played the music unconsciously. It could not be said that the fingers played it, they moved only by impulse from the brain. At the same time all deliberate power over the mind seemed to be lost.—*Vox Humani.*

Reflections on Genesis.

Men charge it upon women that it belongs to their sex to be envious and spiteful. Well, all I can say in reply to that is, that whenever a man is exalted above his fellows his associates encroach upon our prerogatives to a most alarming extent, and about half the mean things that are said and written proceed from those unchristian motives. Women are reproached for Eve's transgression. I have thought over that first sin a good deal, and have arrived at the following conclusions: We are told that the serpent was the most subtle of all the beasts. From this it appears he was a beast and not a reptile, and that it was only after the curse was pronounced that he crawled upon the earth. One commentator supposes that it was a John donkey who was the mischief-maker. With the Bible evidence alone I don't see where they can determine this point, or that the fruit of the tree of knowledge was an apple, but, as this is not a theological discussion, I refrain. This wise and worldly serpent or beast, who was bent upon evil, understood human nature even in those early days and argued thus: "If I tempt the man, as soon as he finds that the fruit is pleasant to the taste he will eat it up in a hurry and won't give the woman a bite, so that I will only catch one in the trap; but, if I can induce the woman to taste first, in the generosity of her soul she will share her pleasure with her husband, and I bag both in the same act of disobedience." Adopt my theory and where does the shoe pinch? Besides all that, the tempter was a he.—*Wash. Cor. Louisville Courier-Journal.*

The Niagara Railway Suspension Bridge.

This bridge was opened for traffic eighteen years ago last August, and the first retimbering it has had has just been completed. The work began the 7th of April last, and has been under the general supervision of George McKenzie, master mechanic, with William Gardner and William McFaul as foremen. Mr. McKenzie so managed the work that at no time has there been any detention of trains or teams, and no accidents of any magnitude have occurred. Mr. McKenzie says that 300,000 feet of seasoned timber has been used in the retimbering process, and about $10,000 has been paid for labor. The most difficult part of the job has been to rebuild the girders under the railway track. The last stroke of the work was done on Saturday, the 28th ult., and the bridge stands now as good as new in its wood work.

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J. P. JONES.

[LOCKE &] JONES, Proprietors.

[TOLED]O, THURSDAY, JAN 1, 1874

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THE CHANCE OF ALL CHANCES.

We like, occasionally, to do a liberal thing.

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We shall go back and count for all competitors for the three prizes, all the names each has sent us since November, 1873, so that all will get the benefit of what they have done.

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NOW GO TO WORK.

Is there not a church that wants this organ? We may possibly take a notion to distribute several of them. But this one (and it is a beauty) we shall give away anyhow. We will furnish specimens, &c., to all applicants, free.

LOCKE & JONES,
TOLEDO, OHIO.

OUR PUBLICATIONS.

Without desiring to influence their judgments unduly, we merely desire to call the attention of our friends to the fact that our publications this year will undergo marked and important changes and improvements, and that the coming year is the very time that their loss will be most markedly felt. A word to the wise, etc.

THE WEEK.

The Virginius has arrived safely at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and an examination into her rights as a bearer of the American flag is now in progress. Any prosecution against PATTERSON, her owner, it is stated, is prevented by reason of the statute of limitations.

The Ring thieves in New York are in deepening trouble. Harry Genet, a member elect of the General Assembly, has been convicted of embezzlement, and has fled to Canada. It is now stated that the new Attorney General of New York will repudiate any contract made with Garvey by his predecessor, and the great plasterer is liable to arrest any time.

Late Washington advices state that the President has offered CALEB CUSHING the Spanish mission, in the room of SICKLES, resigned, and that the former has accepted. The President still declines to withdraw the name of Attorney General WILLIAMS to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the chances of that gentleman's confirmation seem decidedly doubtful. The Senate Judiciary Committee have the matter in hand, and are investigating the charges against WILLIAMS.

During the past week, the labor question has attracted marked attention among the working men, and in some cases they have expressed their dissatisfaction by strikes. Public meetings were held during the week in Cincinnati and Chicago, and public parade made. The Engineers of the Pan Handle, Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago, Cleveland & Pittsburg, and other Roads struck on Friday, and for a time serious trouble was feared, but at this writing nearly all the men have gone to work again. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has disavowed any complicity with the strike.

Foreign affairs are without anything of startling note. The Emperor WILLIAM of Prussia is much better, and is probably now beyond danger.—Ex-Marshal BAZAINE has been removed to the Island of St. Marguerite, for imprisonment.—France is making an effort to establish more perfect postal arrangements with this country.—It is now stated that the inhabitants of Cuba express decided satisfaction at the resignation of General SICKLES.

Our news column gives the usual list of minor engagements between the Spanish insurgents, the Cuban volunteers, and the regular troops.

☞ Everybody reads "John Duncan's Widow," now running in LOCKE'S NATIONAL MONTHLY. Reason—Because it is Nasby's latest and best story. The three numbers containing the story, which opens in the January number, will be sent to any address on receipt of 25 cents. Specimen copies, 10 cents. LOCKE & JONES, Publishers, Toledo, Ohio.

NEW SPANISH MINISTER.

The President has accepted the resignation of General SICKLES, and Hon. CALEB CUSHING has been tendered and accepted the appointment of Minister to Spain. The nomination will be sent to the Senate immediately on the reassembling of Congress. This appointment will doubtless give general satisfaction, and we have no doubt the new Minister will receive a hearty welcome at Madrid, where he can be of special service to the new Republic.

☞ THE MOST SUCCESSFUL case of getting something for nothing is to receive a specimen copy of the BLADE or the AMERICAN FARM JOURNAL, free on application. Hundreds are trying it.

STRIKE OF THE ENGINEERS.

The telegraph brings us reports of extensive strikes on the part of railroad engineers, occasioned by the reduction of their wages. The Pennsylvania Road claims that all of the employes, high and low, have submitted cheerfully to the proposed reduction of ten per cent except the engineers. They claim to have twice remonstrated against the reduction and have never consented to work under it. They have quit work, but express a purpose not to interfere with any persons who may feel disposed to work at the reduced rate. Immense quantities of freight must be detained in consequence of this strike, and travelers must be greatly annoyed by the inconvenience and delays to which the strike subjects them. Unless a compromise should be effected, this annoyance must continue for some time.

☞ THREE DOLLARS is comparatively a small sum, and yet it pays for our three publications for one year. The man who takes these has a whole library in a nutshell.

PROBE TO THE BONE.

Congress will do a good work if it can reduce the expenses of the various Departments at Washington to the proper standard. The people do not wish a mean policy pursued towards the Departments, neither do they wish to indulge a certain class of officers to too great an extent. The Cincinnati *Gazette's* correspondent makes the following reference to certain facts shown by the records, as follows:

The official records of the Treasury show that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, out of a contingent fund of $49,916, $7,563 was for horses and carriages, distributed under the following heads: Horses, $60; carriages, $700; repairs of wagons, $3,176; for harness, $14; repairs of harness, $975; care of horses, $331; oats, $2,336; hay, $845. Besides this there is a regular contract with the express company, under which a large part of the hauling for the department is done, but still over $1,500 was paid for hauling, which neither the express nor Treasury wagons did. It will be seen from the above figures that nearly one-sixth of the contingent fund of the Treasury was used for carriages and horses. Among the items for repairing carriages is one for $688, and another of $881. While it is claimed that these carriages are necessary to transact the department business and general running about, the purchase of street car tickets for the year amounted to $3,400. This class of contingencies will be cut very low this year by Congress. The custom of the departments, to which no objection is made, is to have one two horse carriage at the disposal of the Secretary for official business, and some of the bureaus need a one horse carriage for the same purpose, but it is now ascertained in the case of the Department of Justice that eight or ten carriages are provided beyond those required for official use, and that they are used by the families of the officials as private teams. Attention is certainly to be called to the matter before the next appropriations are made, and many members will insist on rigorous retrenchments in the departments here.

There is little doubt but too large a freedom has been exercised with contingent funds, and a little exposure and pruning will doubtless prove beneficial. In all cases of wrong, we would favor a vigorous thrusting in of the knife. The country is in no condition to indulge officials in illegal expenditures of the public funds, neither is the temper of the people such as to prevent general condemnation of all extravagant and useless waste of funds. If contraction and reduction of prices must be the order of the day, let the effects be first felt by those who have been most zealous for such contraction of currency and reduction of wages and prices.

☞ The Comptroller of the Treasury, Hon. R. W. TAYLOR, has decided that "the bankruptcy of an agent is a revocation of the agency for receiving money or valuables; but where, subsequently to the bankruptcy, a principal, with the knowledge of the fact, appoints the bankrupt his agent, the latter may lawfully transact any business entrusted to him."

FREE SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH.

Immediately subsequent to our late civil war, reflective visitors to those States where the rebellious spirit had been most intense, gave it as their opinion that the greatest need of the South was education for the masses, which could only be met properly by the general establishment and public maintenance of a thorough and efficient system of Common Schools. To this idea the ruling classes not only turned a deaf ear, but manifested bitter opposition. General education, they argued, had been unknown in the history of the world. Assyria, Persia, Greece, Egypt and Rome had ignored it, and Western nations had risen to power without it. It was the Utopian dream of idealists, romancers and infidels, which, if reduced to practice, would give the death-blow to productive industry, since it would make every nigger a gentleman and every wench a lady, and white, black and yellow races would alike refuse to till the earth, harvest crops, tend sugar mills, unload vessels, cook, wash, iron, or perform any other necessary labor upon which human subsistence or national power depended. We recollect discussing the question with a relative of the "Father of Secession," JOHN C. CALHOUN, in 1869, who positively averred it as his belief that the Almighty had decreed against the education of the masses, otherwise he would not have permitted his chosen people, the Israelites, to be so ignorant and uneducated as to wander forty years within a small territory before reaching the borders of the country they were searching for, and his continuing to demonstrate, according to his own sophistry, by sacred and profane history that national glory, power and perpetuity was founded upon the "intelligence, development and education of the *few*, and the ignorance and subserviency of the *masses*. "Educate a nigger," said he, "and he's good for nothing, and the same rule holds good for poor white trash." This was the general sentiment of the then dominant social classes, who, though politically disfranchised, were society leaders through education and former wealth and position.

During the existence of slavery, public safety had depended upon the ignorance of the populace, and as it was dangerous for slaves to gain knowledge, so also was education withheld from poor whites, and consequently a barbarous social system was built up which rested on the basis of ignorance and servility, and which rendered the comprehension of popular education an impossibility to the conservative dominant element. But with the introduction of schools for the freedmen, and the demonstration that they were susceptible of receiving education, even though they might be descended from Chimpanzees or Ourang Outangs, as their ancient masters argue, a change has come over the spirit of this dream of the chivalrous children of the Sunny South, and though the light in their darkened horizon is at present no larger than a man's hand, it foreshadows the advent of approaching day, and the inauguration of the dawn of popular enlightenment in the future.

This is evinced by the action of the North Carolina Legislature, in which body a bill is pending authorizing cities and towns of more than two thousand inhabitants, to establish and maintain free public schools. That this bill is in conformity with the enlightened public opinion of the State, was demonstrated by a large meeting of the citizens of Raleigh, and representatives from the different counties, at which resolutions were passed favoring such legislation as will enable the city of Raleigh to support, by taxation, an efficient system of public graded schools equal to any in the land. At this meeting, leading and influential citizens of Raleigh declared themselves fully aware of the lamentably ignorant condition of the the South regarding education, while admitting that "probably three-fourths of its children are growing up in mental darkness, and many are learning nothing but how to do evil." The advantages of education, and the necessity for taxation in support of public schools were ably advocated. It must not be inferred from the above that the citizens of Raleigh, in taking steps to secure free education to the youth of their own city only, were influenced by a narrow minded

"Me and my wife,
My son John and his wife,
We four, and no more."

sort of policy. Such has been the prejudice against popular education in the interior and agricultural countries, that under existing circumstances the people of Raleigh could only speak for themselves, yet much is hoped for progress in the right direction from their outspoken sentiments and actions.

Reflection upon the following statistics in six States, demonstrates that both school master and school mistress have been perpetually abroad, and that their welcome naturalization must become an established fact before the South can make a better showing of popular intelligence. The population of Alabama is 966,992, 349,771 of whom can neither read or write; of Arkansas, 484,471, 111,799 of whom are in the same lamentable condition; while in Florida the proportion of the wholly illiterate is 66,238 out of 187,748; in Louisiana, 257,184, out of 726,915; in Mississippi, 291,718, out of 827,922; and in South Carolina, 265,892, out of 705,606. With this startling exhibit of illiteracy, it is surprising that the necessity for combating it has not made itself manifest to the thinking people of those States, and that they could not realize its vital importance until the experiment of educating the freedmen had demonstrated its beneficial and happy effects. But now that North Carolina has taken the initiative step, it is probable that the people of all the Southern States will in time follow her excellent example, and, like her, inaugurate decisive movements in favor of general education.

☞ LIBERAL PRIZES are now offered with all our publications, as any one can discover by sending us their name for particulars.

A SPRIGHTLY MONTHLY.

LOCKE'S NATIONAL MONTHLY, for January, opens the second volume with the first chapters of a new serial story by Mr. D. R. LOCKE (Nasby). CHAS. BARNARD, the editor of a Boston musical journal, writes a very whimsical and amusing story called "The Desiccated Bride;" AMALIA LAFORGE an extremely readable love story; while the department of Holiday Reading is admirably filled by Mrs. R. L. SEGUR and RICHARD GRANT. Other articles by American and Foreign writers fill out the measure of this sprightly and popular magazine. The publishers, in order to better accommodate their subscribers, have made a change in the date of the publication, which is fully explained in a statement contained in the cover. We append the table of contents:

1. John Duncan's Widow—D. R. Locke.
2. The Desiccated Bride—Chas. Barnard.
3. Adventures of a War Correspondent.
4. The Ubiquitous Person—By the Editor.
5. Lord Harlow's Steward—Amalia LaForge.
6. Barbara—M. H. B.
7. Tattooing, Savage and Civilized.
8. The Christmas of the Heart—Mrs. R. L. Segur.
9. Familiar Words and Phrases.
10. An Old Fancy—Eben E. Rexford.
11. Martin Woolson—Richard Grant.
12. The Greek of the Past—Ella F. Mosby.
13. Growth and Decay of Mind—Cornhill Magazine.
14. Peaceful Sundays—E. H. P.
15. Notes and Comments—By the Editor.

GOVERNMENT CREDIT TO THE WORKING CLASSES.

Among the many insane communistic ideas promulgated by some of our newly made foreign born citizens, at recent meetings of unemployed workmen in Chicago and other large cities, is that of obtaining credit from the municipal and the State governments, for the laboring classes, without security, taking their word or note of promise to pay, when labor may again be abundant. To the independent American thinker, this demand for right of credit from government seems so absurd that its sober entertainment can scarcely be dreamed of. But to the European who has been reared to regard his government in the light of a provider, the idea is natural, particularly to the socialist, communist and internationalist bodies, the most important scheme of whose organizations includes "right of credit," as the basis of the privileges demanded by its members.

In Germany, the working classes have united on an immense scale in the foundation of Credit Banks, which lend money to their members on fixed and definite conditions, which are based on a species of co-operation, and which, with the national prudence and economy of that country, have proved successful in developing industrial pursuits and amelioration of somewhat the condition of the working classes. But with the extravagant El Dorado ideas which the emigrant to our shores conceives of the financial condition of America, these credit banks would not answer either them or our own people, who find savings banks and building associations which supply loans to working men for building purposes, taking security therefor upon the building and the real estate upon which it is located, more practical. Indeed, working men find no more difficulty in securing loans than any other class of people, where they have security to offer, and the idea that the municipal or the national government should become the banker of a certain class, either with or without security, is preposterous in the highest degree, and manifests great misunderstanding of the philosophy of Republican legislation, whose very nature is adverse to anything of the kind. While the sympathies of the conscientious thinker, and philanthropist are ever with the producing classes, neither the one nor the other can believe that beneficial results could arrive from such mad legislation, even if it were possible. The laboring population of this country may always be independent, pecuniarily, if in prosperous times less money is spent in the thousand and one ways which do not contribute to the support or the happiness of life, and by the investment of this surplus means in homes and other *bona fide* security, upon which, should necessity require, loans can always be negotiated, and for their own good it is well that they understand at once the folly of trusting to the sophistry of interested and unscrupulous demagogues, and give up all attempts at forcing loans from City Councils or State Legislatures, which can end only in disappointment and disaster.

AN ILLUSTRIOUS OLD AGE.

That literary pursuits and fixed temperate habits of mental labor conduce to good health and longevity, is daily evinced in the lives of those who have attained eminence in literature and science, particularly where intemperate ambition to accomplish in one year the work of three does not gain the mastery and cause overtaxed nature to break down prematurely. FRANCIS GUIZOT, the French historian, is one of the most remarkable living examplars of an illustrious old age. Though over eighty-five, he continues his literary labors with the zest of youth, taking more time for recreation and rest, but accomplishing nearly as much work, consequent upon familiarity with it, and the increased knowledge gained in sixty-five years of study. His figure is erect, and his eyes retain the brightness of middle life. Upon being congratulated recently upon his good health he replied, "Yes, thank Heaven, I am in good health. I walk five miles every day and am a hearty eater. I do not think of dying yet, as I have so much more to accomplish. My history of Spain is not half finished." Ten volumes of this work have already been published, and the most indefatigable research and ardent study have been expended upon it for a period of twenty years. The author's memory regarding dates is wonderful, and if a page of manuscript happens to be lost, its power is so great that he can re-write it almost in the exact language in which it was first penned. His chirography is firm, distinct and legible, and his familiarity with many languages and their literature borders on the marvelous.

He studied the Spanish language at the age of seventy-five, and taught it since then to his grand-children, in whom he takes the most enthusiastic delight, his "History of France Related to my Grand-Children," having been compiled for their instruction and entertainment. The success of this work has been such that one hundred thousand copies have already been sold while the demand for it continues unabated. Monsieur GUIZOT is very wealthy, the greater portion of his riches resulting from the labor of his pen. His popularity as an author has been such, that he always commanded larger copyrights than his colleagues, and since the French Government has concluded treaties with most European nations, M. GUIZOT has received heavy sums from foreign publishers. As a literary curiosity, he is the only occidental author who has received a copyright from a Turkish publisher, his "History of Civilization" having recently been translated into that language. In his manner of life Mr GUIZOT is temperate in all respects, never overworking his brain like most literary people this side of the water. He never writes after two o'clock in the afternoon, and exercises much in the fresh air. Though an indefatigable worker he heeds the promptings of nature and takes that rest so needful to prevent exhaustion from intemperate exercise of the mental faculties. Considering his advanced age he is the most remarkable writer of the century, who bids fair to live to his one hundreth birth-day.

☞ A NEW and distinct list of the rates for our different publications, singly or together, will be found at the head of our fourth page.

CHEAP TRANSPORTATION.

We are in receipt of a copy of the Montreal *Gazette*, containing a communication from Mr. J. M. VERNON upon the subject of cheap transportation. After referring to the quantity of produce shipped from the East to the West, presenting some interesting and instructive facts bearing upon that feature of the subject, he says, in conclusion:

But fortunately for the merchants and farmers of the West, there does exist as one of the bountiful gifts of Providence, a mighty and inexhaustible means of exit to the ocean, which combinations, monopolies, or Railway Autocrats cannot stop, and that exit is by the majestic St. Lawrence and its inland seas, and the mighty Mississippi and their tributaries, which if properly improved and connected would give water-ways throughout the basins of these great rivers, comprising 1,800,000 square miles of territory, which is unsurpassed for wealth and magnitude of products by any similar section of the globe.

The utilization of these water highways will give a line of 60,000 miles, and constitute the only channels by which we can successfully compete in the British market with the products transported from the Baltic, the Black Sea, the Adriatic, and the Levant.

It is to the St. Lawrence that the people of the Western States must look for immediate relief. Commercially it sustains, or was created to sustain, this relation and function to the great grain producers of the West. There is no river on this continent that approaches it in commercial importance and value.

This great river and its tributaries are provided by nature for two nations to share alike as their common highway to the ocean. Both nations have a mutual interest to free it from all unnecessary restrictions in regard to the movement of produce and tonnage. Both nations should do this jointly, but the people of the West should demand from the general government the removal of all absurd restrictions in the transportation of their products to the seaboard.

Let these facts be fully understood and acted upon, and the problem of "*cheap transportation*" is solved, which I shall prove hereafter beyond any question of doubt.

Trial of Ex-Mayor Hall.

The trial of ex Mayor Hall for embezzlement, was completed in New York, Dec. 24th.

At the conclusion of Mr. Stoughtons' argument for the defence, Mr. Tremaine commenced for the prosecution, and in the course of his argument called the attention of the jury to the fact that the defendant himself, when the District Attorney procured the conviction of Judge Bogart for an act similar to that for which he is now on trial, and then argued that the word "corruptly" was a mere surplusage; that the word "wilfully" meant intentionally; and with whatever his good faith, if he intended to do the forbidden act, it was doing it wilfully. In that position the court sustained him. Tremaine spoke for three hours, and concluded by saying that if the offense was a technical one, the jury should so find, and trust to the court to administer the mere technical penalty. He did not ask the jury to find that any money went into the defendant's pocket, and he was rejoiced to say that there was no proof whatever that it did. If they found a general verdict of guilty, the defendant could only be punished for one offence, or they could find him guilty on all.

Judge Daniels commenced to charge the jury at 4:30. He said the defendant was substantially charged with a wilful neglect of duty, and being a lawyer and man of culture and ability, should be held to a strict performance of the duty imposed upon him by the law. If a public officer wilfully neglect to perform the duty imposed upon him by law, he is guilty of a misdemeanor. The duty imposed upon the Board of Audit was of a personal and judicial character, which required investigation. They had no right to delegate that duty to any one else. It was, beyond doubt, a personal duty required of members of the Board. Did defendant decline to perform that duty? If he did so designedly and purposely, he committed a misdemeanor, for it is not necessary that there should be any design to defraud. It is enough if a party designs to perform an act which creates a crime. An inspection of many of the bills presented, would have revealed frauds of a gross character, the Judge instancing one bill from which was omitted the creditor's name. The public had a right to expect an examination of all those bills. He instructed the Jury that the defense made of the duties being too arduous, would not stand as an excuse, for no officer can undertake a duty and wilfully neglect it. If the jury was satisfied that the defendants committed the offence, no matter how painful it might be to the defendant's friends, it was their duty to pronounce him guilty, and unless they had an abiding conviction of his guilt, they must find not guilty. He instructed them to confine themselves to the indictment charging the defendant with wilfully omitting to perform the duties prescribed by law. Judge Daniels also instructed the jury that there was no evidence of a conspiracy between Hall and his associates; and nothing connecting him with the fraudulent bill.

The jury retired at 6 o'clock. At 8 o'clock the jury returned, and were instructed, in answer to queries from the foreman, that the simple act of neglect of duty, if wilful, would warrant a verdict of guilty, and that the jury were themselves the judges whether the act was or was not wilful. The Judge told them that if they did not find a verdict within an hour or so, they would be locked up for the night. The jury retired again. At 10:30 o'clock the jury entered the court-room, and in answer to the usual inquiry of the Judge, replied that they had found a verdict of not guilty. At this announcement the audience broke into thunders of applause, which the court did not object to, and after a lapse of about 10 minutes the court was adjourned until Monday morning.

NEW BOOKS.

In this hot blooded, rapid-paced age of ours, it excites a peculiar feeling to find in our hands a volume lately written by a man whose books were popular in our own country and England a quarter of a century ago. Elihu Burritt, or, as he is better known, "the learned blacksmith," has recently completed his sixty-third year, and is still the vigorous thinker and worker whose astonishing mental grasp and vigor surprised and interested the last generation. Mr. Burritt has called his present volume "Ten Minute Talks on all sorts of Topics," and accompanies the "Talks" with a very readable autobiography, very modestly written in the third person. The present book contains many selections from the monthly publication issued by Mr. Burritt while in England, as well as a portion of his earliest volume, "Sparks from my Anvil," which latter we are told he gives us in order that the readers of his earlier publications might judge of his sentiments on other and similar questions. The range of Mr. Burritt's "Talks" is very comprehensive, embracing historical, social, industrial, political and international topics, but it is, we think, for the autobiographical portion of the book, which is really well worth reading, will be generally valued. (Lee & Shepard, Boston.

A Boston house has just published in very tasteful form, a memorial volume of Frank Russel Firth, the young Superintendent and Chief Engineer of the Atchison & Nebraska Railroad. It will probably be remembered by some of our readers that young Firth was killed while engaged in the duties of his position by an accident occurring on the 9th of June, 1872. The work, which contains a sketch of Otis Everett Allen, his companion killed at the same time, was at first printed for private circulation only, but it tells a story which can accomplish an inestimable amount of good among the eager ambitious young men of the day. (Lee & Shepard, Boston.

"Thwarted, or Ducks' Eggs in a Hen's Nest," is one of those pleasantly written stories by Florence Montgomery, which, like the others, will be well received by the younger class of readers. The style is easy, and without any attempt at lofty flights, and the lessons it teaches are that an apparent evil is not unfrequently developed into a blessing, and that opportunities well and carefully improved, often lead to the development of talents hitherto dormant and unsuspected. (J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

"The Deicides," a careful analysis of the Life of Jesus, and of the several phases of the Christian Church in their relation to Judaism, is from the pen of J. Cohen, and is translated from the French by Ann Maria Goldsmid. The author of this work is introduced by the publishers as one who stands high in Paris "as a journalist, as an exegetist, and as a thorough theologian." He is evidently an able, candid and discriminating writer. The design of the work is to review the Life and Character of Jesus from the stand-point of the Jewish synagogue of modern times. For the special purpose Mr. Cohen has in view, he waives all question as to the authenticity of the Christian Scriptures, or the truth of any statements they contain, but takes them in all cases as his authority and the sources of his history. He asserts the distinctive doctrines of Judaism with great vigor, yet aims to treat Christianity with the utmost tenderness and respect. The argument of the book is designed to vindicate the Jews of the time of Jesus from the crime of Deicide, or the murder of their God. The author aims to show from the Gospels that if the Jews were mistaken as to the character of Jesus, the mistake was not a culpable one, as He did not present to them such proofs of Divinity as they could conscientiously receive. Indeed he claims that the teachings of the Jewish Scriptures in regard to the being of God, were "absolutely incompatible with an acknowledgement of the divinity of Jesus." He argues also that the Messiah predicted by the Prophets was an entirely different character from the Messiah proclaimed by the Christian doctrine. Many of the views taken by Mr. Cohen as to the causes of Jewish skepticism in regard to the mission of Jesus, are essentially those held by Christian divines all through the ages on the same points. For instance, Mr. Cohen claims that the Jews of the Herodian age were prepared to accept a Messiah who should be to that time what either Moses or Joshua was to theirs. He admits that a Messiah who saves men and nations by the way of lowliness and self sacrifice, "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," was a character the very opposite of what would satisfy the expectations of the people of that day. Our author says the people were so eager for this Messiah, that many "vulgar, clever and ambitious impostors had profited by their eagerness."

This is very true; but a Messiah who proposed simply to lead the multitudes to penitence for sin, and to heart-purity, awoke no response in their confidence. They wanted signs, such as Moses gave on Sinai, at the giving of the law. But Jesus declared no sign should be given but that of His death, burial and resurrection, which should be the all-conquering sign by which His religion was to prevail.

Notwithstanding many misconceptions of the Christian system shown by this writer, his work will be read by Christians with profit, as it will better inform them of the drift of modern Jewish thought, especially among the more devout and conservative adherents of the ancient faith. The book shows a desire to compare views with Christians, and the discussion it invites must certainly result in advantage to all who with singleness of heart seek after truth. (Deutch & Co., Baltimore.

The second book of Swinton's "Language Lessons," is at hand. In this manual we are told in the preface, "The pupil is brought in contact with the living language; (German) he is made to deal with speech, to turn it over in a variety of ways, to handle sentences, so he is not kept back from the exercise of *using* language, till he has mastered all the dead anatomy of the grammarian." (Harper & Bro's., New York.

Those who are interested in gems (and who is not?) will find much that is instructing in "Diamonds and Precious Stones," a translation from the French of Louis Dieulafait. The work is thoroughly done, and the descriptions written in an entertaining style. The illustrations comprise outline engravings of all the well known gems, giving the exact size of them, and also of diamond mines and mining, and of the process of cutting and polishing. The author likewise gives a history of the attempts to make diamonds and other precious stones, and records it as his opinion that the day is coming when diamonds will be produced artificially. (Scribner, Armstrong & Co., New York.

The pleasant papers which appeared in the "Atlantic Monthly," from the pen of Robert Dale Owen, have been gathered into a little volume under the title of "Threading My Way." Mr. Owen writes in an easy, gossiping style very pleasant to read, and fills his pages with memories of so many famous people, that one finds it interesting to open it anywhere. His description of Scottish country life we thought very attractive, when reading it in the "Atlantic." In his work are sketches of such men as Jeremy Bentham, John Neal, Henry Brougham, General Lafayette, Dr. Spurzheim, George and Abram Combe. His details of the social experiment at New Harmony, Indiana, will be widely read and we think will be more interesting than half the novels that come to our hands. Take it all in all, we have had a very pleasant hour over the book, and believe our readers will do well to possess themselves of it. (G. W. Carleton & Co., New York.

In the way of paper-covered novels, we have "Golden Grain," by B. L. Farjeon, very nicely illustrated, and a pleasant, readable-looking story. From the same publishers, also, are "Her Face was Her Fortune," by F. W. Robinson, and "Joseph, the Jew," the latter published anonymously. (Harper & Bros., New York; T. J. Brown, Eager & Co., Toledo.) Another paper cover is "Blanche Seymour," a novel, by the author of "Erma's Engagement." (J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

The visit of Wilkie Collins to this country has induced the Harpers to get up a uniform edition of his stories. Mr. Collins dedicates the series to "The American People." We have before us "The Woman in White," "The Dead Secret," "Basil," "Hide and Seek," "Man and Wife," and "Poor Miss Finch." The type and paper is all that could be wished, and to those who desire a uniform edition of Collins' novels, we commend this. If any of our readers have not read "The Woman in White" and "The Dead Secret," we can assure them they have a fascinating and thrilling feast waiting for them. (Harper & Bros., New York.

We suppose all of our readers have determined to own at some day, near or far, an edition of Dickens' works. To all such we commend the Harpers' "Household Edition." The volumes are broad, but not thick, are very finely illustrated, are printed well, and, to our mind, are the most desirable of any we have seen. We have "Little Dorrit" before us, and have been tempted to sit down and read it through again, our old friends look so familiarly out at us. (Harper & Bros., New York.

"Dramatic Stories," for home and school entertainment, by Lavinia Howe Phelps, is what Dick Swiveller would have called "a staggerer." We hoped, when we opened the book, to find some pleasant parlor dramas, but must confess that the page devoted to quotations from Ruskin is the only readable one in the whole volume. If Mrs. Phelps has been in contact with such girls as she introduces in her first scene in "The Mantle of Charity," we pity her from the bottom of our heart. Fancy a girl discovering that a painting she has been at work on is destroyed, and her friend says to her: "You ought to expose Elsey. I would pull every hair out of her head. I would never forgive her," and then the sublime and life-like answer:

"Anna, do you remember those sweet lines of the poet?

"Think gently of the erring!
Ye know not the power
With which the dark temp at on came,
In some unguarded hour."

And as if this wasn't bad enough, she goes on through the entire poem, twenty-eight lines more! We are glad to know that young women do not think or talk in any such way as this, and we hope they never will. Children can be drawn with moral characters and as acting from good principles, but they will never quote poems of thirty-two lines to show they forgive one who has injured them. (S. C. Griggs & Co., Chicago.

"Money Maker," by Oliver Optic, is the third volume of the Yacht Club Series, and we have no doubt will be hailed with joy by the boys. Mr. Adams has too securely won his place in the judgment of the young for us to be able to change it by any criticism, if we were so disposed. (Lee & Shepard, Boston.

A Superb Machine.

The Remington Sewing machine has not yet been introduced into a locality where it did not stay and grow in favor. It is the invention of one of the oldest and most skillful sewing machine inventors in the world, a man who has spent a life-time in perfecting this class of mechanism. In the Remington he has a machine which we do not believe can be improved. It runs easily, without noise; it is so simple that a child can manage it and will do any work that can be done with a machine. Then, what is of equal importance, it is honestly made. There is no slighting of any part, nor no economizing for the sake of cheapness. The material used in it is of the best, and every part of it is subjected to the severest tests before it goes into the market. The possessor of a Remington need have no fear of his machine ever breaking down or getting out of repair, when most she wants it. The same honesty of work which has made the Remington fire, arms a reliance the world over, is put upon these sewing machines, and nothing more can be said for them.

The company want agents everywhere, and are prepared to make liberal terms with them. Write for full particulars to Remington Sewing Machine Co., Ilion, N. Y.

☞ OUR NEW OFFER goes this week to many who will read its announcement for the first time. To all such we need only repeat that we mean just what is said at the head of the fourth page, and that the organ and watches will certainly be awarded to some lucky persons on the first of March next. Read the offer for yourself, and send to LOCKE & JONES, Toledo, Ohio, for working tools.

The Average of Hogs in Nine States.

The National Crop Reporter publishes corrected returns from Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Ohio, Tennessee, Kansas, Missouri and Indiana, in relation to the supply of hogs for the current season, showing that the total number fattened in each of the States named is 8.1 less than for the season of 1872 and the comparative falling off in each State is as follows: Illinois, 5 per cent.; Minnesota, 10.3 per cent.; Wisconsin, 6.9 per cent.; Iowa, 6.5 per cent.; Ohio, 9.2 per cent.; Tennessee, 21 per cent.; Kansas, 7.6 per cent.; Missouri, 7.3 per cent.; Indiana, 7.8 per cent. Correspondents in most of the localities report that the feeders generally have disposed of all the marketable hogs, and that although there will probably be some sent forward late in the season, the number will be limited, as the farmers have sold as closely as possible, with a view to saving feed. The average falling off in weight is estimated at 18 pounds in Indiana, 19 pounds in Iowa, 6 pounds in Illinois, 14 pounds in Ohio, 9 pounds in Kentucky, 16 pounds in Missouri, and 23 pounds in Kansas.

Symptoms of Liver Complaint.

A sallow or yellow color of skin, or yellowish brown spots on the face or other parts of body; dullness and drowsiness, with frequent headache; dizziness, bitter or bad taste in mouth, dryness of throat and internal heat; palpitation; in many cases a dry, teasing cough, with sore throat; unsteady appetite, raising of food, choking sensation in throat; distress, heaviness, bloated or full feeling about stomach and sides, pain in sides, back or breast, and about shoulders, colic, pain and soreness through bowels, with heat; constipation, alternating with diarrhoea; piles, flatulence, nervousness, coldness of extremities; rush of blood to head, with symptoms of apoplexy, numbness of limbs, especially at night; cold chills, alternating with hot flashes, kidney and urinary difficulties; dullness, low spirits, unsociability and gloomy forebodings. Only a few of above symptoms likely to be present at one time. All who use Dr. Pierce's Alt. Ext. or Golden Medical Discovery for Liver Complaint and its complications are loud in its praise.

A CURE OF LIVER DISEASE.

RUSK, Texas, May 16, 1873.

DR. R. V. PIERCE:

DEAR SIR:—My wife last year at this time was confined to her bed with Chronic Liver Disease. I had one of the best doctors to see her, and he gave her up to die, when I came upon some of your medicines. I bought one bottle, and commenced giving it. She then weighed 82 lbs.; now she weighs 140 lbs., and is robust and hearty. She has taken eight bottles in all, so you see I am an advocate for your Medicines.

WM. MEAZEL.

THE VERY EXTENSIVE PATRONAGE now enjoyed by the New Elastic Truss is the tribute of modern thought to the [illegible] of the scientific discoverer. This Truss without metal springs retains the Rupture with absolute security in every case. It is worn with the greatest ease, night and day, till a permanent cure is effected. Sold at a reasonable price. It is sent by mail to all parts of the country by The Elastic Truss Co., No. 683 Broadway, N. Y. City, who furnish descriptive circulars free on application.

Correspondence.

WASHINGTON LETTERS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1873.

The last Congress came very near shipwrecking the Republican party and what they left undone to that end this Congress seems bent on accomplishing. The country is writhing in a commercial agony, the revenue receipts have fallen off two or three millions per week, armies of laborers are out of employment, mills and manufactories have stopped work, and gaunt war has been hovering over us, but the House has found time mainly to talk about its own pay, and to grind another grist for its pockets. Its action on the salary question is simply shameful. If there was anything clearly indicated as duty, it was to back square down from the "grab" of last year, and show that the members meant to clear their skirts of the great wrong which proved so disastrous to the Republican party. But, instead of doing this they have undertaken to compound the felony—to split the difference between the popular demand and their own greed—to make a compromise with wrong in the interest of selfishness.

The bill, as passed by the House, is not as reported in my last letter. Other amendments were subsequently discussed, and adopted or rejected. Finally Mr. Hurlburt got the floor and moved a substitute for the bill, which called out a long debate, and on taking the question the vote stood 138 in favor and 130 against. So the substitute was carried and the bill passed by a *viva voce* vote. It makes the pay of congressmen $6 000 besides the actual expenses of travel in going to Washington and returning. It gives the Vice President and the Speaker of the House $8,000, and leaves the salaries of Cabinet officers, the Judges of the Supreme Court, and the President as they were fixed by the "grab bill" of the last session. Of course this is much nearer to justice than the former bill, but it does not meet the requirements of the country and looks like a grudging, forced concession.

It may be that the Senate will have a better sense of what is due to the demands of the people. The indications, at least, are favorable. The committee on that subject reported in favor of restoring the former law as far as it relates to members of Congress, and giving Cabinet officers $8,000. It leaves the salary of the President and of the Judges as fixed by the "grab bill."

The "dirty dog" speech of Mr. Hale does not get the applause which he seems to have expected, while the damaging response of Mr. Butler is unanimously voted "a good thing." Mr. Hale is a man of ability, but, after receiving pay as a member of Congress ($7,500) and as counsel before the mixed commission ($10,000), he was not the man to lecture Congress for its lack of public virtue or its inconsistencies.

Both Houses adjourned over last night to the 5th of Jan. The Senate scolded a little about the bad practice, and then adopted the House concurrent resolution and took its holiday as usual.

The prompt compliance of the Spanish Government with the terms of the protocol, embracing the surrender of the *Virginius* and the remaining prisoners, lifts a heavy cloud from our affairs and is received with marked satisfaction by government and people. It is also supplemented with the gratifying intelligence that the Castelar Administration has been strengthened, and to all appearance firmly established by new and important combinations among the Republican leaders.

As an indication of the tendency of public sentiment on the currency question, I call your attention to the remark of Mr. Morton in the Senate on Thursday. He said there was a great deal of fanaticism about this matter of specie payments. He had had it himself very bad, once, but time and experience had greatly modified the symptoms. He agreed that we must come to specie payments, but he was not in a hurry. Mr. Sherman stated that the Finance Committee were waiting to be instructed by the opinions of Senators. I think he may take it for granted that the Senate is timorously in favor of specie payments—at some distant day.

The bill appropriating $4,000,000 extra for the present wants of the navy has passed both houses of Congress, and is now a law.

The printers made sad work with the paragraph about Gen. Howard in my letter of the 13th. The alleged default is not in the Treasurer's Bureau, but in the Freedmen's Bureau. Gen. Howard has been before the Military Committee, and declares that he is prepared to show that he is neither legally nor morally responsible for the defaults charged against him. It is current here that there is an old difference between Gen. Belknap and Gen. Howard, and the friends of the latter intimate that it has had the effect to quicken the Secretary's sense of duty. Probably the case of Gen. Howard will be referred to a court martial. That seems to be his wish.

The bill from the House repealing the bankrupt act will hardly get through the Senate. The feeling in that body is to spare the law by amending it. The Judiciary Committee were deliberating on the bill yesterday, and expected to report to-day.

The Senate has not disposed of the nomination for Chief Justice. It is reported from the Attorney General's office that the Judiciary Committee sent it back to the Senate without any recommendation, but subsequently recalled it. Of course, the delay implies doubt, and rumors unfavorable to Mr. Williams increase. Whether he is confirmed or not he will not remain in his present office, which he is now preparing to vacate.

Congress broke up last night in a hurry and left a number of bills incomplete, which it ought to have acted on. Among these are the Judiciary bill, the salary bill and the civil rights bill. It is pretty evident that the first month of this Congress will be a severe disappointment to the country. But a hope may be entertained that it will do better after its return.

The President has gone to St. Louis with the remains of his father-in-law, and the White House has a sad and forlorn look.

BUCKEYE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1873.

In writing the date of my letter I am reminded that this is "fore-fathers' day," and that 253 years ago to-day (it was Monday) the pilgrims of the Mayflower effected their landing at Plymouth, beginning their settlement in the dead of winter. The first landing, on the 21st, was for exploration; and it was not till the 30th that the resolution was taken to begin the settlement at Plymouth, and not till the second of January that strong parties began to cut down trees for a "common house."

At sea, on the 16th of November, one of the company (William Butten) died. On the 18th of December, at sea, Edward Thompson died. On the 16th Jasper Moore died. On the 18th James Chilton, on the 21st Richard Butteredge, and on the 10th of January Digory Priest. All dying on the ship. The original number was 102, including men, women and children. The first death on shore appears to have been Rose Standish, the beautiful wife of the valiant Miles. Her death took place on the 8th of February. On the 31st of January they had their first Sabbath on shore. The building of the cabins went on, and one of them was devoted to the sick, who continued to be numerous. January and February proved to be very sickly, and before the sailing of the Mayflower, on the 15th of April, one-half of the colonists had died; but the vessel left without one of them offering to go back with her.

On the 22d of May the first wedding took place. Edward Winslow was married to the widow of William White; her husband died on the 3d of March. As the spring opened the gloom of the colony departed, the sick showed signs of recovery, the means of subsistence, which had been very scanty, became more promising, and the Indians who had been a great source of alarm, showed a quiet disposition and made friendly arrangements with the colonists who had many sore troubles still, but began to have the feeling that they had found a home.

The compact which was formed on the Mayflower about the time that it reached Plymouth harbor, and which has became so celebrated among the historians of America as the basis of popular liberty, was in these words:

In the name of God, amen. We, whose names are underwritten * * * do, by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and of one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

This was signed on the 21st of November, and under it Carver was elected Governor, and the little company took the form of a miniature State of the severest Democratic type, and to be the future copy for a great and powerful Republic. The immediate cause of this compact was the appearance of some disorders which could not be corrected for want of an adequate governing power. The idea was taken from their Church organization, they being what was then called Independents (Congregationalists) who govern their affairs by the action of the whole Church in open meeting.

It was not therefore from any special political philosophy or theory, that they arrived at an idea which had been conceded for so many ages. They grew into democracy by experience. They "builded better than they knew." They were all equal, had become tolerant by practice, and so, when they came to form a government, without seeming to know it, they discarded all the types of past ages and laid their foundations on the broad principles of democratic equality. Mr. Bancroft in his history says: "This was the birth of popular Constitutional liberty. * * In the cabin of the Mayflower, humanity renewed its rights and instituted government on the basis of equal laws for the general government."

It was not my intention to write this when I sat down, but since I have written thus far, I will conclude with some further extracts to the same purpose. De Tocqueville, in his American Democracy says: "The Pilgrims brought with them to the New World a form of Christianity, which I cannot better describe than by styling it a Democratic and Republican religion. This contributed powerfully to the establishment of a republic and a Democracy in public affairs."

Willman, writing on the same subject, says:—"The purely Democratic form of government in the church at Leyden (the church of the Plymouth exiles) already entrenched in the warm affections of the Pilgrims, led to the adoption of a corresponding form of civil government on board the Mayflower for the colony at Plymouth. It has been said, and it is true, that it was a congregational church meeting that first suggested the idea of a New England town meeting; and a New England town meeting embodies all the germinal principles of our State and national government."

It should also be said that the Plymouth colony followed out their principles of toleration and that Roger Williams was befriended and sustained by it, and that afterwards, when the Quakers were such an offence to the other colonies the Pilgrims never enacted any sanguine laws against them.

BUCKEYE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24, 1873.

Some of our influential newspapers, since the decision of the Attorney-General, seem to think that the battle of the Virginius must be fought over again. The *Republican* of this city, for instance, maintains that the most delicate part of the business is yet to come, and that the case has been made more intricate by the decision of our chief law officer that there was fraud in obtaining the clearance of the vessel. It says:

We based our claims for reparation on a mere *prima facie* case, the false assumption of which is exposed by our own admission of her fraudulent character. The claims of Captain Fry and his associates that their imprisonment and execution was in violation of international law are disproved by the admission, and, if we overlook the brutal inhumanity of the executions, we are compelled to admit, on proof of our own bringing, that the Spanish side of the case is not without justification.

Of course it is true that the imposition practiced on the New York Custom House weakens our case, but *it changes nothing in the eye of national law*. The Virginius, when captured, had a regular clearance, and bore the national flag of the United States. She had the best evidence of nationality that a vessel can have; and it could not be known by any search at sea that the claim of ownership by Patterson was bogus. Her clearance was obtained by false pretenses, but bore the proper signatures, and would have been respected by any naval officer under our government, or any other government of the civilized world. Our point against Spain was that her subjects in Cuba, in their suspicion and hatred, disregarded this evidence, captured the Virginius on the high seas, dishonored and displaced the American flag which she bore, and put to death a large part of her passengers and crew.

Of course the Cubans had a right to suspect the character of the Virginius; they had a right to doubt the genuineness of her papers; they had a right to watch her movements; and, if she had ventured into Cuban waters, and in any way demonstrated an evil purpose, they had a right to capture her, and to depend on the circumstances for their justification. But they took too heavy a responsibility when they violated our flag in the open sea, on a mere suspicion, and disregarded evidence which every civilized nation is bound to respect.

It may be objected that the flag may cover an evil purpose: that it may be flaunted by any adventurer, and carried, as it often is, for purposes of plunder. But in all such cases the greatest caution is always used, and no vessel is seized and dealt with on a mere suspicion. If robberies and murders have been committed the facts are known, and vessels and crew, when taken, are turned over to recognized courts, to be dealt with under the forms of law.

If the *Virginius* had an evil purpose, that purpose had not, as yet, been manifested. She was on the open sea, with a lawful cargo, a clearance which was apparently lawful, and under a flag which she had, apparently, a right to carry. A purpose may be changed. She might have thought better of it and been on her way back. She could not, at any rate, be convicted of a mere purpose, when she had not, as yet, done anything against Cuba, and was not within her jurisdiction. She had committed no offense against any nation but the United States, and we do not require the help of Spain to enable us to deal with our own criminals.

The legal aspect of the case is therefore not changed by any acknowledgement that the vessel bore our flag unlawfully. Such a contingency was provided for in the protocol. It was well understood by our government that the *Virginius* was under suspicion and that her clearance might not bear a close investigation. But it was contended on our part and conceded by Spain that this was an offence against our laws and would be no justification for the violence enacted, as the *prima facie* evidence was so conclusive as to require to be respected by any and all nations. Hence, this matter was left for subsequent investigation and the salute arranged for Christmas day was to depend on the result of this investigation. If the papers were found to be all straight the salute was to take place—if not, it could not be required. The only result, therefore, is that the salute stipulated for will not be given.

You will notice that whatever may be the fears of newspapers, the government is entirely pacific in relation to Spanish affairs and is everywhere discontinuing its orders for extra work in the navy yards, and recalling its men-of-war from Spanish waters. Everything here wore the aspect of "peace and good will" towards Spain.

BUCKEYE.

EMINENT WOMEN.

Entered according to the act of Congress, in the year 1872, by the author, in the office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.

XXVI.—Anne of Austria.

(CONCLUDED.)

Thus twenty-one years of the married life of Anne of Austria passed; sometimes she scarcely spoke to her husband for months, and their meetings were usually the result of accident rather than design. The cold, indifferent nature of Louis XIII., prevented him from disgracing his name by amourous intrigues like his father before, and his son after him, and his friendships with women partook exclusively of a platonic character, such were his attachments to Mademoiselle Hautefort and Mademoiselle Lafayette, the former one of his mother's ladies in waiting, and the latter a maid of honor of his wife. Both are represented as very superior women, who exercised a salutary influence over him, whose society he enjoyed and in whose advice he placed great confidence, since he believed it always actuated by the most disinterested motives, which was far from being the case with his courtiers and the ambitious nobles of his kingdom. Both, too, were intensely devotional and Mademoiselle La Fayette was exceedingly conscientious, unselfish and truthful. Through these characteristics, so opposite to those of her associates, she gained unbounded control over Louis XIII, and being adverse to intrigue, acquired the enmity of Richilieu, notwithstanding whose machinations, the King's friendship remained unabated. His visits to her becoming more frequent, and she finding that friendship was being gradually supplanted by love, took alarm thereat and retired to the Convent of Visitation to avoid those temptations which she felt herself growing daily weaker to resist.

Subsequent to the Chalaio conspiracy, Anne of Austria, wearied with courts and courtiers and the persecutions of Richilieu, retired also to a convent where, with a few followers she lived in retirement. But the Prime Minister could not allow her rest or peace, and feigning that he had discovered a treasonable correspondence between her and her brother, the King of Spain, again subjected her to the most cruel and unreasonable persecutions. Her apartments were searched, all her drawers and trunks broken open, her friends imprisoned, while she was closely confined in her room and threatened with being sent in disgrace to her relatives in Spain. Although her servants and friends were interrogated by the Cardinal and threatened with torture, and every device was used to criminate her, the affair ended without any proof whatever against her and doubtless originated in the vindictive brain of Richilieu. Mademoiselle de Lafayette notwithstanding her retirement from court, received occasional visits from the King during this time, who, as usual, sought her advice, believing that she alone acted from disinterested motives. With womanly intuition she fathomed the deep designs of the astute revengeful Cardinal, and so far as lay in her power unmasked them to Louis XIII., and convinced him that he, through unjust suspicions had done his wife great wrong, which it was his duty to atone for, by a complete reconciliation. At the same time she assured him that she could no longer tolerate his visits to her, since she had firmly resolved to embrace religious orders, and would immediately enter upon her noviciate preparatory to taking the black veil as soon as it was over. Her efforts were successful, and after twelve years of total estrangement, Anne of Austria and her husband were once more united, and in 1638 their son Louis XIV., was born, after a marriage of twenty years.

During this period the King brought infamy upon his name for cruel treatment to his mother, Maria de Medicis, who bitterly atoned for the sin she had committed in her early endeavors to dwarf and weaken his intellect, in order that she might retain regal power, long after he had reached his majority. Her ambitious designs interfered with the plans of Richelieu, and through his influence she was banished from France, and prevented from finding a home in her old age with any of her children. Charles I. of England and the King of Spain, her sons-in-law, fearing the vengeance of the Cardinal, and the King of Netherlands being unable to afford her an asylum for the same cause, she retired to Cologne, where failing to receive remittances from France, she became a pensioner upon the charity of the great painter Rubens, who, at Richelieu's command, was compelled to go to Spain upon the pretence of executing some work of art, and thus deprived of her last friend, she died in abject poverty during the severe winter of 1642. Though her faults and errors in a great measure conduced to her misery and her unhappy death, its memory has left an uneffaceable stain upon the name of her unnatural son.

Two years after the birth of Louis XIV., another son was born to Anne of Austria, who became the Duke of Anjou and afterwards of Orleans, and the projenitor of that branch of the Bourbon Princes. Subsequent to this event, she lived upon very indifferent terms with her husband, whose death began to fail from this time until his death, which occurred three years after. Her enemy, Richelieu, died some years before her husband, and though the latter, in his last will, did not appoint her regent of France, during the minority of her son, confiding the government to a Council of five; he had scarcely been dead a month before she succeeded in abrogating its decrees, and causing herself to be proclaimed regent of France and unrestricted guardian of her son. Cardinal Mazarin, the godfather of Louis XIV., had succeeded Richelieu as prime minister, and had been invested with extraordinary powers by Louis XIII.—He was an Italian, and his elegant, persuasive manners soon gained great ascendancy over the Queen, though at first she had disliked him. Such was her intimacy with him that it was asserted he had obtained a dispensation from the Pope, and that Anne had secretly married him. Mazarin was very unpopular with the French nation, having burdened them with taxes, oppressed them with many *lettres de cachet* and given rise to numerous court intrigues by his conduct, and weary with the rule of a Spanish Queen and an Italian Cardinal, several serious revolts occurred, wherein the dismissal of Mazarin was demanded; but Anne met the revolutionists with heroic courage, and through her influence several times quelled formidable insurrections without acceding to their wishes. These revolts were known as the wars of the Froude.

However, in 1649, owing to her refusal to dismiss Mazarin, she was obliged to flee from Paris in mid winter, with the entire court, and failing utterly in executive ability, she endured great suffering at Saint Germain, from having neglected to provide necessary supplies for her household. At this period the decapitation of her husband's brother-in-law, Charles I., of England, and the flight of his widow and child to France for protection, inspired her with such a fear of revolutions, that she gladly acceded to terms of peace with her people, who, as weary of war as their rulers and the court, did not stipulate for Mazarin's dismissal, but even received him and the Queen with demonstrations of affection upon their entry into Paris. A happy, but brief peace of a few years followed, when new disturbances arose, and Mazarin precipitately fled from Paris, but through the Regent's power and influence was recalled, and thereafter ruled her and France with absolute power, by gaining the favor of Louis XIV., who now had attained his sixteenth year. Mazarin's authority continued in full force until death, and he repaid the devotion of Anne of Austria with the greatest ingratitude, instigating dissensions between her and her son, and causing her almost as much unhappiness as Richilieu. He had hoped to bring about a marriage between Louis XIV. and his niece Maria Mancini, but was frustrated in his plans by the Queen, who succeeded in negotiating a marriage between her son and her niece, Marie Theresa of Spain, greatly to the satisfaction of the French people, who after a long war with that country rejoiced at the hope of peace of which this union was the token.

The mystery of the "Iron Mask," was a prominent social enigma of this time. A young man of wonderful personal beauty, whose age corresponded with that of Louis XIII., was known from his birth to have been a close prisoner, having been often removed from one place of confinement to another. The great respect with which he was treated, being served upon gold and silver plate, and the regal surroundings which were accorded him notwithstanding his imprisonment, and his resemblance to Anne of Austria and Louis XIII., gave rise to the rumor that he was an illegitimate son of the Queen, and Gaston, Duke of Orleans, or Buckingham or Mazarin. As he was always compelled to wear a black velvet mask to disguise his features, it was impossible to determine whether reports concerning him, regarding resemblance and beauty were correct, but from events which transpired after the death of Anne of Austria, it was believed that he was the twin brother of Louis XIV., since only in this case political motives would have warranted the treatment which he received and have rendered the secrecy which was so rigidly observed, necessary. For a period of thirty years during the reign of Louis XIV., this mysterious personage was confined in a wing of the Bastile and constantly treated with the honor and respect due a Prince Royal. This monotonous career terminated in 1703 at the age of about fifty years, and he was buried in the cemetery of St. Paul, his countenance having previously been entirely disfigured and rendered unrecognizable by mutilation. Nothing definite regarding his birth or the reason of his extraordinary imprisonment was ever known.

The negotiation for the marriage of her son was the last public act of Anne of Austria. Louis XIV. had attained his majority, and she made no attempt to imitate her unfortunate mother-in-law by seeking longer to retain the sceptre. Her later years were devoted to religious rites and ceremonials. Prayers, vigils, and austere penances absorbed her entire time. The gay, frivolous and imprudent life of her mature years had left her mind without other resources than those which religious exercises gave, and in their observance her restless spirit found peace, if not happiness. Although it cannot be said of her that she governed France wisely, her reign was an improvement upon that of her husband, since, notwithstanding the embarrassments which civil war constantly occasioned her France lost none of her national prestige. As a patron of arts and protector of literature her name is pre-eminent, and as a loving, devoted mother, who unselfishly studied the welfare of her children, she was unexcelled. Her death resulted from cancer, from which she suffered great agony during the two last years of her life, which was ameliorated by the sympathies and tender ministrations of her children and her relatives. She died at the age of sixty-five, sincerely regretted by the King to whom she had never failed in maternal affection, the virtues of her later years regaining the esteem of her people which she had lost in her earlier career. Other through the force of uncontrollable circumstances and thoughtless imprudence than through criminality or guilt. Her blind attachment to Mazarin remains the greatest stain to her government and name and is the only evidence that she sacrificed the dignity of the woman and of the daughter, wife, sister and mother of kings, and while the impartial historian cannot re-echo the sentiment of Louis XIV., that his mother as regent ranked among the greatest kings of the earth, it must be admitted that the memory of her faults does not obliterate the remembrance of her virtues.

ELLIS TERMAINE.

Labor and Relief.

Friday evening a meeting was held in the City Hall, Chicago, at which were present Mayor Colvin, the Finance Committee of the Common Council, the Special Committee on Relief appointed by the Council on Monday evening, a Special Committee of Workingmen, and the Executive Committee of the Chicago Relief Society. The object was to consider the demands made by the workingmen through their leader, that the Relief Society should either spend or place in the hands of the Workingmen's Relief Committee a portion of the funds in their possession for distribution to their fellow laborers. In connection with this demand grave charges had been made by some of the leaders of the workingmen to the effect that the funds of the Relief Society had been misapplied; that they would be unable, if called upon, to produce the $600,000 which their accounts show should be on hand.

The executive committee of the Relief Society, while declining absolutely to place any part of the funds in their hands into those of other parties for distribution, showed that the charges of misapplication of funds was unfounded, and offered to produce the entire $600,000 in cash on half an hour's notice, and let it be counted as the workingmen had demanded. The committee also showed that they were relieving all cases of destitution presented to them; that the Society was doing most efficient work in providing for the worthy poor. The meeting, though long and productive of much earnest talk, was unmarked by any excitement, and the majority of all present signified their entire satisfaction with the showing made by the Relief and Aid Society, and expressed confidence in their disposition and ability to properly distribute the funds in their hands.

Bridge Completed.

The great iron bridge on the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, crossing the Mississippi River at Louisiana, Mo., was completed on the 24th ult. A train of cars passed over it. This bridge consists of nine spans, ranging from 160 to 260 feet in width. The draw, which is 444 feet in length, is the largest in the world. The total length of the bridge is 2,052 feet; and in it are 5,000 cubic yards of masonry, 50,000 cubic yards of rip rap, 250,000 cubic yards of earth embankment. The whole work has been done in less than six months, it having been commenced in July last. A dyke, half a mile long, is being built from the Illinois shore so as to ensure a perfect channel through the draw. T. B. Blackstone, President, John J. Mitchell, Vice President, and other officers of the Railroad and Bridge Company, engaged in the work, reached Louisiana on the 24th, and there will be a formal opening of the bridge.

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Reading for Little Folks.

OUR CHILDREN.

BY J. F. CLARK.

As the fragrance of the roses,
  As it floats upon the breeze;
As the voice of feathered songsters,
  As it warbles from the trees,
As the singing of the brooklet,
  As it murmurs through the vale;
As the song of birds at even,
  With their soft and pensive wail;
As the glory of the morning,
  When the sun dispels the gloom;
As the beauty of the landscape,
  When it's clad in early bloom;
As the beauty of the diamond,
  When it sparkles in the light—
Are the voices of our children,
  As they sweetly say, Good-night!"

LITTLE DUTCH GRETCHEN.

BY FANNY HOWELL.

Little Dutch Gretchen came over the sea,
  With an aunt in place of her mother;
"As like"—so little Dutch Gretchen told me—
  "As like as one pea to another."

Little Dutch Gretchen fell sick on the way,
  A sailing upon the dark water;
The Captain came down to the cabin each day,
  And called her his little Dutch daughter.

Little Dutch Gretchen took pretzels and beer,
  Hoping she soon would be better;
And at last, when the end of the journey was near,
  Dutch Gretchen sent homeward a letter.

"I'm better," Dutch Gretchen wrote first on the page,
  And my aunt is as kind as my mother;
But never a prison bird shut in a cage,
  Longed more to give one for the other.

There's a look and a tone, and a tenderer way,
  A bosom more gentle to lie on;
And mother, a love that will never grow gray,
  And a heart that is blessed to die on.

So, mother, I've said to the Captain, to-night,
  To Bremen I'll sail back most gladly;
To tell you if changing one's mother is right,
  'Tis a thing that will cheat a child sadly."

And little Dutch Gretchen went home o'er the sea,
  And gave back her aunt for her mother;
"For they're not all the same," said Gretchen to me,
  "Though as like as one pea to another."

"Merry Christmas."

BY S. O. Y.

How many little voices will shout it out, over crowded stockings and under laden Christmas trees!

How it will chime in the blessed church bells; and how it will speak unspoken in the gift of friend to friend!

"The merriest day of all the year!"

Aye! The merriest, because the most truly blessed—because without this festival, all the other festivals of the beautiful church year would be impossible.

So shout your carols, children; and make the merry Christmas ring. *Make* it a merry Christmas to all within your reach; and then, on your bended knees, thank the Good Heavenly Father that He sent the Christ Child to this dreary earth, and so gave back to those who love Him mirth and joy.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-three years ago, and the joy bells have been ringing ever since! Indeed, we ought to be "merry," and we will.

But did you ever think, boys and girls, who stand in the happy group about the blazing fire Christmas morning, with father and mother to love you and to make you happy, that it may not be always so? That even now, as you stand there, hearts and hands full, with nothing more to wish for, others who, *last* year, were rich in love as you, to-day sit by lonely firesides; and in place of thanking God for an unbroken home-circle, try to be patient, as the longing for dear ones gone seems stronger at the Christmas tide?

There are some mothers who cannot smile as they fill the stockings, because they think all the time of a little red or blue one, which hung with the rest last year, and is now folded carefully away.

When the home carols are sung, many a one will be listening for a voice which sang last year and is missing now; and there are, I know, little ones to-day, who, because the kind father or the tender mother has been called away, think there can never be a "Merry Christmas" any more for them.

Now, it is not to the happy children that I want most to talk at this time; but to those who fancy they have lost all part in the Christmas joy because of a great sorrow in their home. I want to take them all up in my arms, and tell them about a little girl, somewhat older, maybe, but no wiser than the least of them, who once carried just such a feeling in her heart on Christmas Eve. Who thought nothing could ever again be bright and beautiful to her, and that all thought of the festival was like a mockery, because God had taken away her dear father who had made her Christmas always.

She lay all night sobbing in her bed, and grew more wretched when, as the morning broke, she heard the Christmas bells and the voices of children singing. Gradually these sounds faded away, however, her sobbing ceased, and close by her bedside, though she saw no one, a gentle voice spoke to her.

It brought before her, as in a picture, each Christmas Day since she had come into the world, and again she was carried in her father's arms, and again she danced around the Christmas tree. And looking at herself as one looks upon another, she saw how it had always been, —the Christmas gifts, the good cheer, and the merry company which had made her happy, and how she had forgotten, even while she spoke words of thanksgiving, the Great Gift, of which all others at this season should be but sweet reminders.

She saw herself in every Christmas picture; but always selfish in her joy. Hugging her little stocking full of gifts, while other little ones were barefoot in the streets.

Playing with her dolls and toys by the bright nursery fire, while they only wept and shivered in their dreary homes. Laughing and singing beside the Christmas table, which groaned under its load of dainties, while so near, oh, so near, little ones starving and cold had never even a thought of Christmas cheer!

She seemed always the centre of love, only giving to those who could give back to her, and never questioning her right to every blessing. But all about her, in each picture, the air seemed full of hungry wretched phantom forms, whose outstretched arms dispelled the Christmas blessing, and whose sad faces dimmed the light.

Then the voice told her of the Christ Child come to earth to live and die, just to teach the children of men how to live, and to take from them all bitterness in dying; and that to truly keep the blessed feast we must find our joy in giving our loving Lord a loving welcome; assured that "with Himself" He will "freely give us all things."

The voice whispered in her ear that Christmas came most joyfully to those who had loved ones in the heavenly land, and who were striving to work for the dear Saviour who at last would take them there.

And when she wondered what she, but a child, could do for a Master so great and powerful, she was pointed to those other children who needed help and comfort so much more than she, to whom she could give "the Christmas" by telling them of Christ. She saw the sick, whom she could heal—the suffering whom she could comfort—the tempted whom she help; and going all the while beside her, in the long path which seemed so lonely, she saw her Savior, and with a strange joy she heard the words:

"Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these, My brethren, you have done it unto Me."

So she awoke.

Yes, really awoke out of the darkness, and what but a blessed dream has been to her ever since as a reality.

Many a Christmas has come and gone since then, and in the years between, many a trial has come, too, to the child who saw the vision, but the festival has grown more joyful every year; for she has learned that to truly keep the Christmas-tide, we must strive to make it merry for others and forget ourselves; and that we never really begin to love the day till we have dear ones on "the other side," who come close beside us at the Communion feast, when "with angels and archangels, and with *all the company of heaven*, we laud and magnify his glorious name."

Anger and Sorrow.

A mother was once looking at her children playing together in the garden. Presently one of them came crying indoors. "I know," said the mother, "why you look so angry. Your big cousin took away your hoop, and, when you tried to take it from him, he struck you in the face, and now he is bowling your hoop and enjoying himself in the garden with the rest, and you have come crying into the house. It is quite right of you to be angry; but tell me what would you like to have done to your cousin?"

"I should like," said the little boy, "to knock him down and take my hoop away from him." "Very well," said his mother, "I am going out into the garden, and I shall take the hoop away, and I shall punish him also. But now listen to me a minute. You hope some day to live with Jesus in heaven; try to fancy yourself there now. What do you suppose Jesus thinks about your cousin? You know Jesus died for all of us, and loves all of us. He has loved your cousin and taken care of him ever since he was a baby, just as He has loved you and taken care of you. Now, suppose we are close to Jesus, who is sitting on His golden throne. See, the Angel has brought that terrible book in which all our sins are written down, and Jesus sees your cousin's sin written down there. There are many other sins written down there (yours and mine and other people's), and this is one more. But Jesus came to take away all our sins. What do you think Jesus feels? I think He is angry; but is He also glad or sorry?" "Very sorry indeed," said the little boy. "Yes, very sorry; and if you love Jesus, you also ought to feel sorry. Now I must go out and punish your cousin."

"No, mamma," said the little boy; "I only want him to give me back my hoop; do not punish him." But his mother kissed him, and answered: "Yes, my dear, I must punish him, not to please you, but to make your cousin know how naughty he has been, and to teach the others not to do as he did. But I am sorry for him, and I shall not punish him more than I can help."

It is right to be angry whenever you see injustice or cruelty, or sin of any kind. For a moment or two, perhaps, you may be so angry that you cannot feel anything but anger. But, remember, you cannot be angry rightly for many moments together with a bad child, unless you feel also sorry for him.

Sorrow is the salt of anger. As salt prevents meat from turning bad, so sorrow prevents anger from becoming a fault.

When you do wrong, how would you like people to be angry with you, and not, at the same time, sorry for you?—*From Parables for Children.*

The Humor of the Day.

The Way Nick Bowers was Caught.

Nick Bowers was a member of the original Christy Minstrels, and, in his day, was the greatest "middle man interrogator" known in the profession. Nick used to tell, with great merriment, an incident of his boyhood. To preserve the flavor of the relation we will record in Nick's own language, and only regret that we can not accompany it with his inimitable gesticulation.

"My old man," said Nick, "as a general thing, was a pretty steady old gent, but once in a while he would act oblivious, and water was not the cause of it. I recollect a certain holiday was approaching, and I had been skinning around to get a little money to have a time with on that day: but the fates and purses were against me. It was but two days prior to the anticipated holiday, and I hadn't nary a red. Remember this, boys, when I add that on the same afternoon I came into the house, when lo! there on the floor, totally overcome by his libations, lay my respected daddy, and beside him lay six shining half dollars which had rolled from his pocket. Boys, I've been an honest man all my life, but once when a boy committed a theft. I hooked one of those half dollars. Thinks I to myself, the old man's been on a jamboree, and won't know how much he spent, and will never miss it. But mark you, the next morning I and my two brothers were summoned into my father's presence. The old man's face lowered. I thought of the half dollar and knew that a storm was brewing.

"Boys," said he, "last night when I came home I had six half dollars. One of 'em's gone. Your mother didn't take it. There's been no one else in the house. Which one of you took it?"

We all protested our innocence.

"Boys," said the old man, "that half dollar never walked off, and I'm going to find out which one of you took it."

Turning around, he took down from the wall an old flint-lock blunderbuss. This he deliberately loaded with powder and buckshot in our presence; then fastening it upon the table cocked it, took a seat behind it, holding the string in his hand, and in solemn tones addressed us thusly:

"Boys, I'm going to discover the thief and punish him at the same time. You must each of you blow into the muzzle of that gun. When the guilty one blows, off goes his head. Now then, you have a chance; will you own up, or blow up?"

"Ben," said the old man to my oldest brother, "have you got that half dollar?"

"No, sir."

"Take a blow."

Ben did so in safety.

"Nick," (oh boys, I tell you the chills began to crawl down my back,) "got that half dollar?"

"No, sir," said I, with a defiant swagger.

"Blow in that gun."

I walked up bravely, gave a blow, and—dodged!

"Nick," said the old man in a voice of thunder, "where is that half dollar?"

He had me. The truth dodged out of me. Said I, "Out in the barn, pap."

The First Tooth.

Mr. and Mrs. Harbison had just finished their breakfast. Mr. Harbison had just pushed back, and was looking under the lounge for his boots. Mrs. H. sat at the table holding the infant Harbison, and mechanically working her fore finger in its mouth. Suddenly she paused in her motion, threw the astonished child on its back, turned as white as a sheet, pried open its mouth, and immediately gasped, "Ephraim!" Mr. Harbison, who was on his knees with his head under the lounge, at once came forth, rapping his head sharply on the side of the lounge as he did so, and getting on his feet, inquired what was the matter. "Oh! Ephraim," said she, the tears rolling down her cheeks, and the smiles coursing up. "Why, what, Armethea?" said the astonished Mr. Harbison, smartly rubbing his head where it had come in contact with the lounge. "Baby—" she gasped. Mr. Harbison turned pale and commenced to sweat. "Baby has—O, O, O, Ephraim! Baby has—baby has got a tooth!" "No!" screamed Mr. Harbison, spreading his legs apart, dropping his chin and staring at the struggling heir with all his might. "I tell you it is," persisted Mrs. H., with a slight evidence of hysteria. "O, O, it can't be," protested Mr. H., preparing to swear if it wasn't. "Come here, and see for yourself," said Mrs. H. "Open it's 'ittle mousy wousy for its own muzzer. That's 'a toody woody; that's a 'ittle 'ump o' sugar." Thus conjured the heir opened its mouth sufficiently for the author of its being to thrust in his finger, and that gentleman having convinced himself by the indubitable evidence that a tooth was there, immediately kicked his hat across the room, buried his fist in the lounge, and declared with much feeling and vehemence that he could lick the individual who would dare to intimate that he was not the happiest man on the face of the earth. Then he gave Mrs. H. a hearty smack on the mouth, and snatched up the heir, while that lady rushed tremblingly forth after Mrs. Simmons who lived next door. In a moment Mrs. Simmons came tearing in as if she had been shot out of a gun, and right behind her came Mrs. H. at a speed that indicated that she had been ejected from two guns. Mrs. Simmons at once snatched the heir from the arms of Mr. H. and hurried it to the window, where she made a hasty examination of its mouth, while Mrs. H. held its head, and tried to still the throbbing of her heart, and Mr. H. danced up and down and snapped his fingers to show how calm he was. It having been ascertained by Mrs. Simmons that the tooth was a sound one, and also that the strongest hopes for its future could be entertained on account of its coming in the new moon, Mrs. Harbison got the necessary material, and Mr. Harbison at once proceeded to write seven different letters to as many persons, unfolding to them the event of the morning and inviting them to come on as soon as possible.

Those who go around with the contribution box in California churches plead and argue the case as they go along. One of these gentlemen recently extended the box to a rough looking miller who slowly shook his head,

"Come, William, give something," said the deacon.

"Can't do it deak," said Bill

"Why not? Isn't the cause a good one?"

"Yes, good nuff, but I ain't able to give nothing."

"Pooh! pooh! I know better. You must give me a better reason than that."

"Well, I owe too much money."

"Well William, but you owe God a much larger debt than anyone else."

"That's true but He don't keep pushing me like the rest of my creditors."

Courting.

Justice, though blind, is always beautiful. So is a Justice of the Peace, when his head is perfectly horizontal and his heart is tender. Such is that mild-minded magistrate of Guthrie county, Ia., who has just made a decision in the case of a parent who has sued his daughter's wooer for kicking him out of his own parlor. It was held by the court that courting is a necessity, and must not be needlessly interrupted; that a parent has no legal right in a room where courting is going on. This, however, leaves open the questions whether a father in the exercise of proper parental authority may order his daughter, still domiciled in his house, to go to bed at 9 o'clock; and whether he is bound to find fire and light for the convenience of the enamored.

A French gentleman, learning English to some purpose, replied thus to the salutations: "How do you do, monsieur?" "Do vat?" "How do you find yourself?" "I never lose myself." "How do you feel?" "Smooth. You just feel me."

Berlin, Prussia, has determined to expend, within the next five years, $2,350,000 for the establishment of additional High Schools.

Popular Science.

Scientific Items.

A Geneva physician has observed that among populations dwelling at a high elevation above the level of the sea cases of consumption are very rare, while on the other hand cases of pnemonia are very frequent. Having bestowed attention also upon the therapeutic effects of altitude, he comes to the conclusion that a given increase of altitude produces always the same effect, whatever the altitude of the starting point.

According to Mr. Alexander Delmar, the utmost capacity of a population to consume grain in the form of food is eight to ten bushels per capita per annum. The grain product of the commercial world, however, amounts to eighteen bushels per head, giving an excess of supply which necessarily makes agriculture profitable. In 1848 Indian corn was worth sixty-seven cents gold per bushel; now it is worth only 67 cents currency. "If this," says Mr. Delmar, "does not demonstrate over-supply, political economy is a valueless science, and observation in matters relating to breadstuffs must go for nothing."

The experiment recently made to transport a cargo of fresh meat from Australia to England has proved an utter failure. The plan was to freeze the meat solid and then to keep it in that state by surrounding the vessels in which it is kept with ice and salt. The voyage took up seventy-nine days, but as early as the thirty-fourth day the greater portion of the meat had to be thrown overboard. The last of the ice melted away when the ship touched at the Azores. The experiment will be tried again under more favorable conditions.

It is proposed in England to establish a national school of cookery in connection with the annual international exhibition at South Kensington. An influential meeting recently held for the purpose of advancing the project agreed to the following resolutions: 1. That such a school should be at once founded, to be in alliance with school boards and training schools throughout the country. 2. That the aim of the proposed school should be to teach the best methods of cooking articles of food in general use among all classes. 3. That an association should be formed with the intention of making the school self supporting. 4. That it would be prudent to secure a capital, say £5,000. The provisional committee, containing some very eminent names, were authorized to take the necessary measures to establish the school by means of shares, donations and guarantees. In time it is expected that schools of this description will be established in all the great towns of the kingdom.—*Galaxy*.

In Canada a burner is in use by which residuum of crude petroleum is used instead of wood or coal in brick kilns. By a simple contrivance, says the "Oil Journal," the nozzle of the burner is made to throw the flame directly downward at the first firing, and after burning the head, as it is termed, this nozzle is replaced by a straight one, the change being effected in a few moments. The flame is thereby thrown into the arch any required distance, burning the whole kiln from one end, and doing it in much less time than the old method.

The recent loss of three large passenger steamships has led somebody to propose an effectual means of guarding against such fatal accidents. Each large passenger ship should carry a small but powerful steam launch. In foggy weather this launch should be sent ahead a few hundred yards, being connected with the passenger ship by a flexible telegraph cable, provided with an electric battery, so that signals might constantly be transmitted from one to the other. The launch should also carry an electric or other strong light, and be provided with a powerful steam whistle. On meeting with ice or with vessels, or unexpectedly approaching the coast, it would be comparatively easy to stop the launch and give warning in time to save the passenger ship from harm.—*Sci. Miscellany, in Galaxy.*

A valuable collection of diamonds and other gems was exhibited by Dr. A. C. Hamlin, at the Portland meeting of the American Association. The diamond is regarded by Dr. Hamlin as geologically the most recent of all gems. He rejects the theory that it takes its crystaline shape within solid rocks, by the disintegration of which it is released, and is subsequently found among the debris in river gravels and other similar places. He asserts that the diamond is found in, or rather upon beds of gravel usually modified drift, and has never been found anywhere else. The diamond placers of South America, India, Ceylon, and South Africa, are all geologically identical; the placer is usually a filled up lagoon, of basin shape, with a gravelly bottom. Near the margin the diamonds are found at a slight depth, imbedded in the gravel. Nearer to the middle of the lagoon the depth of the gravel may be seventy or eighty feet and hence it is necessary to dig to that depth to find the diamond stratum. This universal mode of occurrence, together with other reasons, lead to the conclusion that the formation of diamonds began long after the close of the drift period, and that they are of undoubted vegetable origin, and have been crystallized by the crystallogenic forces pervading the gravel in which they are found.

The Color of Clothing.

The color of clothing is by no means a matter of indifference. White and light-colored clothes reflect the heat, while black and dark-colored ones absorb it. White is the comfortable and fashionable color for clothing in summer. It reflects heat well, and prevents the sun's rays from passing through and heating the body. If white is the best color for summer, it does not follow that black is the best for winter. It must be remembered that black radiates heat with great rapidity. Give a coat of white paint to a black steam radiator, which is capable of rendering a room comfortably warm at all times, and the temperature will fall at once, though the heat-producing agency remain the same as before. A black garment robs the body of a larger amount of heat than white, and consequently the latter color is the best for winter garments. It is the best color for both summer and winter. Although this statement may seem like blowing hot and cold, it is nevertheless true. Let those who are troubled with cold feet, and who wear dark socks, change to white, and see if the difficulty is not in part or wholly removed. Utility in color is confined to the different shades merging from dark into light; but we find in connection with dress all the beautiful tints of the rainbow, and these are used for the ornamentation of the person. The rich and varied colors which are so extensively worn are by no means to be condemned; adornment of the person to a reasonable extent is commendable. We all love the beautiful in nature, and what adds so much to the attractiveness of woman as the ribbons and scarfs, stained with magenta, mauve, or solferino, which adorn her person? Deep in the instincts of our nature is laid the admiration of color; and we love beautiful flowers and birds and—beautifully dressed ladies—*Fireside Science.*

The Light of the Sun.

In a recent lecture on the Sun, delivered in Boston, Mr. R. A. Proctor said: "We will next consider the sun's light. This we may compare with the oxy-hydrogen light, which has 1-146 of its intensity, or with the electric light, which is but one-third as intense. The heat radiated by the sun is also comparable. The estimates of its total heat are very variable, but that which it furnishes to the earth we are able to measure, and to arrive at exact results. Sir John Herschel has found that the heat which falls upon one square mile, when the sun is in the zenith, is capable of melting in one hour 26,000 tons of ice. There are 50,0[illegible] square miles on the surface which the sun shines upon, and the heat which [illegible] receives would be sufficient to raise [illegible] ocean sixty-six miles deep in one year from the freezing to the boiling point. [illegible] that received by the earth is but a small part of the light emitted, for 72,000 earths could be placed on the earth's orbit. The planets receive only 227-millionth part of it. What then becomes of the rest? The stars, which are also suns, are giving out a large amount of heat, only a portion of which falls upon their planets. What becomes of all this heat which is radiated into space? That is a question which is yet unanswered. But to return to the sun. The heat which is actually given out by one square yard is estimated to be equal to that evolved by six tons of coal burnt in one hour. The light and heat of the sun travel at the same rate and probably the magnetic power also, yet it takes eight minutes for it to pass the space between us. If the sun gave out sound, and it undoubtedly does give out sound, it would take thirteen and one half years to bring it to us. But there is, strangely enough, a gap which it cannot pass. If those old heathen who prayed to the sun could have known how many years would have elapsed before their petitions would have been heard, if it were possible for the sound to have passed that gap, they might have [illegible] from their devotions. If a rod of metal were connected between the earth and sun, it would take three hundred days for a sound to be transmitted from one to the other. There was a very nice illustration of the distance between us which had been given by an American whom he did not know, but which is based upon the rapidity with which a sensation is transmitted in the body. He said if a baby at its birth had an arm so long that it could touch the sun, that even if it lived to threescore years and ten, it never would know that its fingers were burnt.

Preventing the Decay of Shingles.

Take a potash kettle or large tub and put into it one barrel of wood ashes lye, five pounds of alum, and as much salt as will dissolve in the mixture. Make the liquor quite warm, and put as many shingles in it as can be conveniently wetted at once. Stir them up with a fork, and when well soaked take them out and put in more, renewing the liquor as necessary. Then lay the shingles in the usual manner. After they are laid, take the liquor that is left, put lime enough in it to make whitewash, and if any color is desirable, add ochre, Spanish brown, lamp black, etc., and apply to the roof with a brush or an old broom. This wash may be renewed from time to time. Salt and lye are excellent preservatives of wood. It is well known that leach tubs, troughs and other articles used in the manufacture of potash never rot. They become saturated with alkali, turn yellowish inside, and remain impervious to the weather.

Miscellaneous.

GIVE ME THE LOWEST PLACE.

Give me the lowest place; not that I dare
  Ask for that lowest place, but Thou hast died
That I might live and share
  Thy glory by Thy side.

Give me the lowest place; or if for me
  That lowest place too high, make one more low
Where I may sit and see
  My God, and love Thee so.

—*Christian Rossetti.*

UNSATISFACTORY.

"Have other lovers—say, my love—
  Loved thus before to-day?"—
"They may have, yes they may, my love;
  Not long ago they may."

"But though they worshipped thee, my love,
  Thy maiden heart was free?"
"Don't ask too much of me my love;
  Don't ask too much of me."

"Yet now 'tis you and I, my love,
  Love's wings no more will fly?"—
"If love could never die, my love,
  Our love should never die."

"For shame! and is this so, my love,
  And love and I must go?"—
"Indeed I do not know, my love;
  My life, I do not know."

"You will, you must be true, my love,
  Nor look and love anew!"—
"I'll see what I can do, my love;
  I'll see what I can do."

—*Macmillan.*

LOSSES AT SEA.

Trans-Atlantic Shipwrecks.

The Atlantic steamship companies have, during the current year, been more pressed by business than during any previous period. The Vienna Exhibition was alone an enticement to many Americans to visit Europe; and the numbers of the patrons of the steamships were increased greatly by the Europeans who came to visit our country. Considering this fact, and that which is declared by the subjoined record, it must be allowed that ocean travel is becoming more dangerous as it becomes more familiar. What are the causes of this strange and unpleasant phase of ocean affairs it is hard to determine.

With the circumstances of the losses of the steamships Atlantic and city of Washington fresh before them, some people will readily make up their minds as to those causes in a way adverse to the steamship companies. They will say that prosperity has made not only the managers of the steamship lines, but also their employes, careless of the safety of passengers, and they will apply this result of their reasoning to the present case of the Ville du Havre. Leaving all special cases of steamship disasters aside, it is truly remarkable that during the year 1873 alone about one-third as many lives have been destroyed by transatlantic steamers as were annihilated in the same manner in the thirty-one years from 1841 to 1873.

LIST OF SHIPWRECKS.

President—Left New York March 11, 1841, and was never heard from afterward. Among the passengers were Tyrone Power, the comedian, and a son of the Duke of Richmond.

Columbia—Wrecked in a fog on the coast of Nova Scotia, July 1, 1843.

Great Britain—Lost in a storm on the coast of Ireland, Sept. 22, 1846.

Helena Sloman—Foundered in mid-ocean, Nov. 1850; nine lives lost.

St. George—Destroyed by fire at sea, Nov. 25, 1852; 51 lives lost.

Humboldt—Wrecked near Halifax, Dec. 5, 1852; no lives lost.

City of Glasgow—Never heard of after leaving Glasgow in the spring of 1854; 480 lives lost.

Franklin—Wrecked at Moriches, L. I., July 17, 1854; no lives lost.

Arctic—Run down by French steamer Vesta, off Newfoundland, Sept. 27, 1854; 330 lives lost.

City of Philadelphia—Wrecked in 1854.

Pacific—Never heard from after Jan. 23, 1856, when she left Liverpool, 200 lives lost.

Le Lyonnais—Collided with ship Adriatic, of Nantucket, Nov. 2, 1856; 120 lives lost.

Tempest—Lost with all on board; never heard from after she left New York, Feb. 26, 1857.

New York—Lost at sea in June, 1858.

Austria—Burned in mid-ocean, Sept. 13, 1858; 470 lives lost.

Argo—Wrecked in a fog on coast of Newfoundland, June 28, 1859; all hands saved.

Indian—Wrecked on coast of Nova Scotia, November 21, 1859; 27 lives lost.

Hungarian—Wrecked off Nova Scotia, Feb. 20, 1860; 205 lives lost.

Connaught—Burned off the coast of Massachusetts, Oct. 7, 1860.

Canadian—Wrecked by sunken ice in the Straits of Belle Isle, June 4, 1861; 35 lives lost.

North Briton—Wrecked during a storm on Parquet Island, November 5, 1861.

Norwegian—Wrecked on St. Paul's Island, June 14, 1863.

Anglo-Saxon—Wrecked off Cape Race, April 37, 1863; 237 lives lost.

Georgia—Lost on Sable Island in a fog, August 4, 1863.

Bohemian—Wrecked of Cape Elizabeth, February 22, 1864, 20 lives lost.

City of New York—Wrecked on Daunt's Rock, Queenstown, Ireland, March 29, 1864.

Jura—Wrecked off Liverpool harbor, Nov. 3, 1864.

Iowa—Wrecked of Cherbourg, Dec. 10, 1864.

Glasgow—Burned off Nantucket, July 21, 1865.

Scotland—Collided with the ship Kate Dyer, off Fire Island; Dec. 1, 1866; 13 of the Kate Dyer crew lost.

Hibernia—Foundered on the Irish coast, Nov. 29, 1868; 50 lives lost.

United Kingdom—Left New York April 17, 1860; never afterwards heard from; 80 lives lost.

Germania—Lost on the Newfoundland coast, in a fog, August 7, 1869.

Cleopatra—Lost on the Newfoundland coast, in a fog, Aug. 8, 1869.

City of Boston—Left New York January 25, 1870, called at Halifax, and was never afterward heard from; about 160 lives lost.

Cambria—Wrecked on the Irish coast Oct. 19, 1870; 190 lives lost.

Dacian—Wrecked near Halifax, April 9, 1872.

Tripoli—Wrecked on coast of Leland, May 17, 1872.

Brittania—Wrecked in Frith of Clyde, Jan. 27, 1873.

Atlantic—Wrecked on Marr's Rock, N. S. April 1 1873; 562 lives lost.

City of Washington—Wrecked on coast of Nova Scotia, July 7, 1873.

Ismalia—Left New York Sept. 26, 1873; yet unheard from.

Missouri—Wrecked on the Bahamas, Oct. 1, 1872; no lives lost.

Ville du Havre—Collided with the British ship Loch Erne, in latitude 47 deg. north, longitude 35 deg. west; 220 lives lost.

ANOTHER NEVADA PHENOMENON.

A Column of Phosphorescent Flame Sixty Feet in Height—Awestricken Miners.

The Virginia City (Nevada) *Enterprise* of Dec. 7 contains the following: About 1 o'clock yesterday morning some of the residents in the western part of this city were startled by observing what seemed a flame fifty or sixty feet in height shooting up out of a shaft near the old Ophir works. It was at first thought that the old timbers in the mine were on fire, and three or four men ran to the spot to see what could be done toward smothering the flames. On reaching the shaft, however, they found that there was no smell of smoke, and also that the supposed fire was a light unlike anything they had ever before seen, in its weird whiteness and in the strange corruscations of its component particles. In the light shed, about the faces of the men wore a corpse-like pallor. Two or three of those present were miners returning from work with their dinner pails in their hands, and it was observed that the pails (tin) appeared of a brilliant steel-blue color. Their clothing and hair also partook in some degree of the same ghastly and unnatural color. The light came up the full size of the large square shaft, and seen at a distance as it rose up through the falling snow, closely resembled one of the shooting spires seen in the aurora borealis, and it seemed to have something of the same waving and inconstant motion. Although the men felt creeping over them, a sort of superstitious awe, they still had sufficient courage to approach the shaft and gaze into it. A strange sight was there seen. The whole interior of the shaft seemed to be at a white heat, and glowed like a furnace.—The timbers on the sides were particularly brilliant, and each splinter, excresence, or bit of fungus seemed darting, dazzling rays that streamed steadily out in all directions. A warm, steamy current of air ascended from the sweltering regions below, and there was observed a sickening, musty smell. All those who looked into the shaft, afterwards felt a severe pain in the temples, and two or three were sick at the stomach. This singular appearance lasted nearly half an hour after it was first observed, and before it was over eight or ten men, mostly miners returning from their work, at various mines, (it being about the time of changing shifts,) had collected about the shaft. The light died out from the top downward, and protuberances from the sides of the shaft continued to glow for some minutes after the light was no longer visible above the top of the shaft. The light would seem to have been caused by the belching forth of some kind of highly phosphorated gas from some of the deep underground chambers in the old abandoned works. The rush of gas—for gas of some kind it must have been—was probably caused by an extensive cave in some place where the old timbers had rotted away. One of the men who had the good fortune to witness the phenomenon, is of the opinion that the meeting or mingling of the gases from the mine with the atmospheric air had something to do with intensifying the light, as he saw in the current of pseudo flame myriads of small particles of some substance, globules of vapor, or something of the kind, which appeared to flash and scintillate as they darted upward, and which presented in the general column of light much the same as motes moving about in a sunbeam. The light was observed by a few persons in B street, but was supposed by them to be a stream of light thrown up into the air, and reflected from the falling snow, by some large reflecting lantern."

Bazaine's Life in Prison.

[Correspondence London News.]

The Marshal rises at 6 o'clock every morning, takes a small cup of black coffee, and then, after half an hour's sharp walk in the garden, works with the foils for nearly an hour. For this purpose a fencing-master from one of the regiments in Versailles comes to him every morning. He has never neglected this habit since he was first made a prisoner, or, rather, since he first gave himself up as a prisoner, in May, 1872. He says that, accustomed as he has been all his life to take a great deal of out door exercise, he would have become very ill long ago had it not been for this hour of fencing which he imposes on himself for six days in the week. When the fencing-master goes away he dresses for the day, and then works for an hour or so at the papers connected with his case. His head has suffered a great deal from what he mentioned in court—namely, that all assistance in the way of documentary evidence has been refused him by the prosecution, and that he has to strain his memory greatly in order to try and recollect facts or dates. By 9 A. M. his advocate, Maitre Lachand arrives from Paris, and the Marshal works a couple of hours with him. At 11 he breakfasts, Maitre Lanchard, Colonel Vilette and sometimes his brother, Monsieur Bazaine, a civil engineer, being his only companions at the table. After breakfast he walks again in his garden, and then prepares for the court. When the court is over he has another interview with his advocate, works for a time alone, and at 6 p. m. sits down to dinner *tete-a-tete* with Col. Villette. After dinner he again takes exercise, this time confining his walk to a long gallery which runs at one side of the Trianon aux Bois. He then prepares papers and documents for the morrow, writes out notes he wishes his advocate to give his opinion concerning, and at 10 p. m. retires to rest. One inmate of his prison I have forgotten to mention—his eldest child, Achille, a very fine little fellow of five years old, who will not leave his father, and who has, with the express permission of the authorities, shared the Marshal's captivity throughout. Like most children of his age, Achille has a very great admiration for all that is military, and it is curious to see the Marshal's room in the Trianon littered with toy drums, helmets, chessepots and cannon. The little fellow sleeps in his father's room, is looked after by an old soldier who has been thirty years in Bazaine's service, and is by his own particular desire drilled regularly every day, or rather three times a day, by a sergeant who comes there for that purpose. Mme. Bazaine, with the younger children, lived for some time at a convent close to Versailles; but their rooms in the building being under repair, they are now at their own house in the Avenue d'Iena, in Paris, and only come to the Trianon on wet days, as the court does not sit.

Heartless Neglect.

In its issue of Dec. 13, the Marysville (East Tennessee) *Republican* gives the following narrative, speaking of it as among the many instances of destitution that have come to its knowledge, and saying that it is fully substantiated:

"About five weeks ago, a little girl, thirteen years of age, named Robinson, living on the further side of the Chilhowee Mountain, had her back broken by the fall of a chestnut tree. As the accident occurred within the limits of the district attended to by the East Tennessee Christian Association, the doctor, who is the agent, was sent for. He promised to visit and examine her, but did not go. A short time since, her mother walked nine miles to Marysville to obtain some assistance, and in speaking of the condition of her child remarked that she must return to her that night, even if she went by torchlight. Exhausted with fatigue and anxiety, she fell dead when she reached home. The condition of the child is represented by some who attended the funeral of the mother as almost beyond description, she having lain in the same position and with the same clothing on since the accident occurred. We understand that the Helping Hand Association has taken the girl into its care, although not within its limits, and that the poor sufferer will be made more comfortable."

A plumber had an Irish lad in his employ, and one day having occasion for a piece of zinc, ordered him to get one twelve inches square. "Yes sir," said Pat, "twelve inches square, but how long?"

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Reliability of Seeds.

The question of the reliability of seeds has given rise to much bad feeling between seller and purchaser, and has been the cause of not a few law suits. At a late sitting of a county court in England a case was tried which brought out many facts, or at least theories, in relation to the causes that influence favorably and unfavorably, the germination of seeds. The action was brought to recover the sum of £30 from a seedsman who last spring sold the plaintiff twenty bushels of vetch seed, which was assumed to be bad and unproductive, as being sown on an excellent piece of ground containing seven acres, no crop was produced. After taking the testimony of practical farmers and experts the judge delivered a written opinion on the case, of which the following is an extract:

"Whether the seed in question was chased under a warranty or by sample, it is not necessary for me to [illegible], for on the evidence laid before [illegible] I am of opinion that it answered the description of good [illegible] productive seed, adapted [illegible] sowing. The evidence of [illegible] consisted of proof which [illegible]clusive, that the seeds were [illegible] course, on land in an [illegible] of tilth, and that the cr[illegible] failed, and that on par[illegible] seed was sown, purch[illegible]er person, which succeed[illegible] satisfaction. The defendant met [illegible] evidence by producing numerous [illegible]nesses who had bought and sown portions of the same seed with perfect success. The defendant stated that he purchased 80 bushels from Messrs. Caldecott, of Worcester, of which the 20 bushels purchased by plaintiff were part. He produced the purchasers of a considerable part of the remaining 60 bushels, all of whom testified to their satisfaction with the seed, and samples of the crop grown from it were produced before me. On the whole of [illegible] which I have weighed with [illegible] deliberation, I find impossible to conclude that the seeds were otherwise than good and available for spring sowing, and the proof of its being otherwise lies on the plaintiff. I need say no more for the conclusion of the case, but inasmuch as it is evident that the failure of a crop from any particular seed, although *prima facie* evidence of its imperfect character, is not conclusive on the point."

"I have consulted with some curiosity some well accredited books on agriculture, which have been within my reach, to ascertain what causes may and frequently do interfere with the germination of the most irreproachable seeds. These causes are very numerous, one of the most common being the harrowing the seed with too heavy a harrow, for the germination of the seed underground is caused and maintained by the formation of the gases in the seed, which, in truth, consume the seed and nourish the sprouts until these are above ground, when the sun and air supply the necessary nutriment—a process which fails in this case by too deep sowing or harrowing, the seed is consumed before its sprouts have reached the surface of the ground. Then, again, an unusual frost or very cold current of air passing over the shoots immediately on their appearance above ground may destroy the whole process of vegetation. Then, again, vermin, such as mice, birds, or worms, scarcely visible, may destroy a crop unknown to a farmer who does not submit the ground to the minutest investigation. And, finally, there are sometimes causes at work which escape the closest observation, connected possibly with conditions of temperature, but little understood. To one, or some, or all of these causes, I feel bound to attribute the failure of the plaintiff's crop, rather than to the unsoundness of the seed, the good quality of which has been proved by a convincing mass of evidence; and with so many and such various causes at work to frustrate the germination of the seed, it is easy to understand that it might succeed in one field, and not in another, or in one part of the same field, and not in another. Mr. Thomas, a farmer from Llandyssul, deposed that there was a great difference in the produce of two parts of his field, both sown with the seed purchased from the same bulk as that purchased by the plaintiff. I depart with reluctance from the rule on which I generally act, that the costs should follow the result, but I may, I think, with justice, do so in the present case. There will be judgment for the defendant without costs. I cannot dismiss the case without thanking the gentlemen who acted as advocates for the assistance I derived from their intelligent and judicious advocacy."

[illegible] Recipes.

The R[illegible] New-Yorker gives the following [illegible] and [illegible] removing freckles: One ounce [illegible] lemon juice, borax, and rose-[illegible] mixed. Rub on at night, and in the [illegible] bathe with soft water; no hard w[illegible] should ever be used, if you value [illegible] complexion.

A puddi[illegible] without eggs can be made by takin[illegible] cup of rice to one half gallon [illegible] and one cup of sugar. Bake [illegible] rice is done. I think it mu[illegible] [illegible] with eggs. Flavor to yo[illegible].

[illegible]—The following is an ex[illegible] remedy: Take onions, [illegible] and sprinkle loaf sugar over [illegible] in the oven, and simmer [illegible] juice is thoroughly mixed with the sugar. It makes a thick sugar, very nice. Give a teaspoonful as seems to be needed, four or five times a day.

APPLE JELLY.—Apples make an excellent jelly. The process is as follows: They are pared, quartered, and the core completely removed, and put into a pot without water, closely covered, and put into an oven or over a fire. When pretty well stewed the juice is to be squeezed out through a cloth, to which a little white of egg is added, and then sugar. Skim it previous to boiling, then reduce it to a proper consistency, and an excellent jelly will be the product.

BROILED MEAT.—Cut the meat in slices about half an inch thick, rub both sides slightly with butter, salt and pepper both sides also, and broil. It is done in less than a minute's time, the meat being already cooked. Place it on a warm dish, spread butter, chopped parsley, and a few drops of vinegar all over it, and serve quickly. When broiled as above the slices of meat may be served on a puree of peas, beans, limas, lentils, or potatoes.—*Harper's Bazar.*

TO WASH CHINTZ.—Boil two pounds of rice in two gallons of water till soft, and pour it into a tub; let it stand until it subsides into a moderate warmth; put the chintz in and wash it (without using soap) until the dirt disappears; then boil the same quantity of water and rice as before, but strain off the rice and mix it in warm water. Wash the chintz in this till quite clean; afterward rince it in the water the rice was boiled in; this will answer the end of starch, and dew will not affect it.

TO REMOVE RUST FROM CLOTHING.—Oxalic acid will take rust or any other stain out of white goods. Disolve a small quantity in boiling water and dip the spots in. The acid can be got at any drug store. Another way is to saturate the spots with lemon-juice and spread the cloth in the hot sun; if it don't take out all the rust the first time, repeat the application. Another mode is to wet the cloth with yellow sulphide of ammonia, by which it will be immediately blackened. After allowing it a minute or two to penetrate, the excess of sulphide is to be washed out and the black spot treated with diluted chlorohydric acid, by which it is at once removed. Finally, wash well with water.

Neglected Culture.

The annual report of the New Jersey State Agricultural Society gives neglected culture as having the strongest retarding influence in that State on fruit culture and orchard planting. The old orchards, we are told, "are sorry sights to look at, simply for want of proper culture and manure. We know many such that, to our knowledge, have not had a shovelful of manure in fifteen years, removing during this time not only what apples the trees bore, but also a cutting of hay once a year. This, too, by excellent grain farmers, men who would not think of planting a crop of corn or potatoes without a full dose of manure for each." This has been the great difficulty everywhere, but few of those who plant orchards, whether large or small, being willing to give them the care they bestow on annual crops. No good farmer would think for a moment of planting his corn in a grass sod, and giving no cultivation—a treatment which has been very common for young fruit trees. We are glad, however, to see of late years a great improvement in the management of newly transplanted orchards, as well of bearing ones, and land owners are learning that trees kept in vigorous and healthy condition bring finer and higher-priced fruit, and more of it, than such as are allowed to become enveloped in weeds, grass and brush.

A New Hedge Plant.

The Gardener's Monthly for December figures and describes a new hedge plant, the *Elæagnus parvifolius*, a native of the Himalaya Mountains. It belongs to the Oleaster family, in which are the wild olive of the Levant and the Buffalo berry (*Shepherdia argentea*) of the northwest. It will probably prove quite hardy and of easy culture. It is described as looking very harmless the first year from seed, having then no spines, but large numbers of short branches, from a fourth of an inch to two inches in length, which become sharp spines the second year. The spines increase in size and numbers as the shrub grows older. The second and third years, branches two to five feet long are produced, so that the plant soon becomes high enough for a good hedge. But its greatest value consists in its rarely showing any disposition to grow over six or eight feet in height. After reaching this height, the shrubs grow by sending out strong shoots from the stems near the ground; becoming self-thickening. It makes a first-class hedge if pruned, or if left to itself it is still a good fence. At three or four years the plant bears seed, so that it can be cheaply propagated. Gray says the *Elæagnaceæ* are mostly diœcious, but this species is an exception.

Want of Care.

Want of care is the prolific cause of accident and disease among stock. The master's eye or the owner's solicitude are proverbially preventives against trouble or waste; but if the master or the owner will not trouble themselves to exercise the watchful care needed, we may be sure no one else will. A careful shepherd will never bring his flock home at night without counting them, and passing among them, observing carefully and suspicious change or defect. In the diary, the least falling off in the yield of a cow should be the cause of inquiry or observation until the reason is found; for that there is a reason we may be assured. A limp or a suspicious failure in the team should also be a source of uneasiness until it is accounted for; and if this habit of close scrutiny and observation becomes the rule instead of the exception there will be much less trouble and loss for farmers to complain of.

The Proper Feed for Horses.

The proper feeding of horses has much to do with their condition, and likewise with their remaining sound. Food should be proportioned to work, and it should also be of the best quality. Hay that has been much heated in the stack is above all things to be avoided, as, from its powerful diuretic properties, it debilitates and creates thirst; and mowburnt or heated oats are equally productive of mischief. Hay which is produced on dry upland ground is best. Indeed, we are far from thinking that rich meadow hay, finely scented as it is, and apparently so full of nourishment, is fitted for any description of horse that is required to go fast, and it is quite certain that thousands of horses are destroyed annually by the effect of hay and water. The latter cannot be too soft, and when not so should be given with a small portion of bran in it.

Miscellaneous.

Shall we Return to Specie Payments or not?

Correspondence of the BLADE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 1873.

The New York *Evening Post* is a strong and persistent advocate of a specie-basis-currency, and can scarcely restrain its impatience at the protracted delay in returning to what it calls a sound financial policy. I have just been reading one of its elaborate articels, and find in it a large number of sentences like these:

"It might take some considerable time to strip France of its gold. * * The gold would disappear—be melted up. * * The trade dollar is so heavy that it is worth fully 101 in gold and will always be bought up for export. * * Silver being a legal tender in South America and the West Indies is shipped largely to these countries from New York. * * * We should be flooded with silver while exchange would rise and we should ship more gold than we can very well spare."

I quote these disjointed sentences to show what reliant and abiding substances these precious metals are to build a currency on. One would gather from the expressions quoted that gold and silver are [illegible] uneasy metals, and can be kept in position only by the most exact equilibrium. If there is the least incline they flow away like water. They are "melted up and disappear," they are "shipped" when we "cannot very well spare them;" if they are a "legal tender in South America" they go there; if they are a little too heavy they "will always be bought up for export."

The mercurial nature of coin would be of no great consequence if all our currency was to be composed of it. If we had 750 millions of gold dollars we could afford to lose a considerable number without being alarmed. But nobody has any idea of a solid currency of gold. If you watch the propositions as they are unfolded in the newspapers or in Congress you will find that with all their discordancies, they have one uniformity. The great disideratum is to find how small a quantity of gold will answer the purpose. What is aimed at is a large volume of paper based on a small foundation of coin. And, even if we had not had the experience of so many disastrous suspensions, how could we expect steadiness and safety when the pyramid of paper was built on an apex of coin, and the coin was liable to so many contingencies?

I said in my last letter on this subject that the addition of 250 millions of gold to our 750 millions of currency would increase it to a thousand millions, and be such an inflation as would send up prices. These are the figures and such was the theory of some of the leading New York bankers; but it is by no means certain that this would be the result. On the other hand, we may infer that there would be such a sense of danger, such a fear on the part of the banks that they could not redeem their bills on presentation, that their paper would be used only to a small extent, and contraction instead of expansion would be the result. In 1839 resumption produced no sensible relief, and it was not till three years later that the indications began to appear. We should cease to have, as now, a fixed and useable amount of paper, and the quantity floated would depend altogether on the tone of the business public. If there was confidence the banks would expand; if there was danger, real or apprehended, they would contract. We cannot build steadiness on a base so mercurial.

But it is said that gold and silver are the currency of the world; and the inference is that they must therefore be the best for us. I reply that it is not against gold and silver that the argument lies, but against paper with a fluctuating narrow coin basis. In Europe coin has entered into the circulation much more largely than it has ever done in America. In the smaller States the currency is almost entirely coin. In Great Britain it is also largely coin. In France, where the population is less than in the United States, the gold coin is 800 millions of dollars (4,000,000,000 of francs) and the silver coin more than $1,500,000,000. The five franc pieces alone are 15 hundred millions. But even with a wide basis of coin and a narrow margin of paper the exports of gold are jealously watched and any extraordinary outflow produces a severe stringency.

Since the war this country has been trying an experiment never before tried in the history of the world, and it is universally conceded to be a great success. Our paper currency, limited in amount by law and secured by government bonds, bears no relation to a suspended bank currency the value of which depends on the solvency of a bank. It has had the confidence of the public, has kept prices steady, has been wonderfully free from fluctuations and panics, and, although not so desirable as gold to the importing merchant, is still no serious inconvenience in the negotiation of exchanges with foreign countries.

The question before the country is, as to whether we shall accept the situation as it is, and go on, to perfect our experiment, or shall we return to a mixed currency of coin and paper. There is no doubt, I suppose, that the Constitution is repugnant to a purely paper currency, and that many, who would otherwise be favorable to its continuance, will be against it. But whoever has gone through the calamities of the past, and realized the greater security of the present, will wish that the experiment might be continued. At least, if we return to our former condition, let us see to it that the infusion of metal is stronger than it ever was before, and that the laws are so framed as to bring into use a large part of the gold and silver mined on our own soil. We must borrow the needful amount to begin with, but we can soon have it without borrowing.

BUCKEYE.

THE VILLE DU HAVRE.

What a Feminine Journalist Who Crossed the Ocean in It Says about the Old Hulk.

[Mrs. Burnham's Letter to the St. Louis Republican.]

As I write this letter the news goes through the land that the Ville du Havre lies at the bottom of the sea. The awful disaster must chill every heart, but it comes home to me with doubly dreadful import. I go back to the nights when that dismal old boat would of a sudden stand still and shiver and shake like a paralytic, when all hands and the cook scampered from stem to stern to learn the locality of the last trouble. I left this boat a devoutly thankful, but somewhat disappointed woman. I counted on her going to the bottom that trip. The gorgeous old hulk was fixed up with the bloom of youth and patent stays and new machinery, but was old when she went into the line. She was an old side-wheel steamer, which had borne the name of Napoleon III. (Queer name for an old girl.) She outraged all the laws of naval architecture, and I always supposed ships, like bridges, must be symmetrical in shape to be safe. Here was a ship, originally of good length, to which was attached sixty feet of gilded saloon. It was tacked or stuck on some way, and was the entire width of the vessel, with not a single brace anywhere to be seen. Paneled beautifully with white marble slabs, veined with gold, at a little distance they had the cheerful look of grave-stones, and it took very little imagination to read first-class obituary notices on all of them. That whole saloon always seemed to me a sort of porcelain-lined iron dinner-pot. Very lucky for me it is that the Ville du Havre didn't meet a floating clothes-pole last August. I shouldn't be on dry land to-day thinking sadly of those poor creatures who perished on the morning of the 15th of November.

As a prophetess I am a success, and I mean to write to my paternal progenitor to-night and learn if there is any seventh daughter about me. I predicted a prediction that that vile old boat would never see the year '74 afloat, and lo! she is gone. Never again through her gilded saloon will ring the Anglo-French cry, "Ding dong, garcob, cat' lemonade!" There is a terrible lesson to be learned from the loss of the Ville du Harve, if the actual facts are ever known, for there was frightful economy shown in its management, and criminal recklessness in ever putting her on the line. When I came over they hid the disabled state of the screw, and took her back to be repaired in France, with one entire fan gone and part of another missing, repairs cost so much less there than here. They saved forty dollars on a trip by using a filthy yellow fat on the machinery instead of decent oil, and the smell of the vile compound stewing on the engines must have done much to reconcile the passengers to shipwreck. A paper here expresses astonishment that an electric light was used. Why, the last I knew of the dastardly economy of the French line they were negotiating with a red-headed Gaul, thinking he would prove a cheaper substitute for a head-light than the feeble lanterns in use. Catch them increasing their expenses one hundred dollars a day for an electric light.

I scuttled the ship in half a dozen places with hair pins and paper-cutters. I tell the unexaggerated truth when I say that, lying on the sofa, in state room No. 50, I dug into the punky wood, two or three inches away from the port-hole, with a paper-knife, until I struck the glazing of iron that formed its outer coat. That iron-plating was nowhere thicker than a frying-pan, and a determined little pilot-boat, with a shingle nail at the prow, could have cut through us and got out on the other side, if it didn't run into the cook or Captain en route. When the Loch Earn gets into port people will rush down to see the fearful agent of destruction. She will possess no such importance for me. I know how easy she did it, for I know what a crazy old shell the Ville du Havre was.

An opium eater in Greenfield, Mass., has consumed $50,000 worth of the potent drug.

BRIGHAM YOUNG'S HOUSEHOLD

The Story his Nineteenth Wife Tells—The Prophet as a Wooer and a Husband.

A correspondent who heard at Salt Lake City, on the 25th ult., one of the lectures which Mrs. Ann Eliza Webb Young, the nineteenth and last wife of Brigham Young, has prepared to deliver in the Eastern States during the coming winter, writes as follows concerning it to the Chicago Inter Ocean: "Mrs. Young was born in 1844, and was first married when she was eighteen years of age. She lived with this husband three years, and had two boys born to her. From this husband she was divorced by the Probate Court, Brigham Young and Daniel H. Wells assisting her. She then lived with her mother in South Cottonwood, and at a meeting there over which Brigham presided, she noticed his eye upon her during the whole service. When the meeting was over Brigham proposed to go home with her. Arriving at her house, Brigham proposed to her father for his daughter in marriage, and to save her father and brother from ruin, and being cut off from the church, she married Brigham. The ceremony was quietly performed in the Holy Endowment House by H. C. Kimball, the First Chancellor to the President, with injunctions from the Prophet to keep it a secret. Mrs. Young makes many disclosures concerning the Holy Endowment House that are new to the outside world. After three years of wedlock with the Prophet she separated, the first intimation which any of her relatives or Mormon friends received being obtained from the newspapers. Her story is one of neglected love, abuse, the want of necessary comforts, the need of medicine and medical advice, and of base and unprincipled treatment by her husband; avers that beyond monthly rations of food of the commonest character she received only $30 per year in an order on the co-operative store for her and her children's wearing apparel. In regard to the Prophet's partiality for Amelia Folsom, she says it is owing to his fear of her, she having a violent temper of which he stands in great dread. There may be something in this, but it has been said by parties familiar with Brigham's families that his partiality for Amelia is attributable to the wonderful magnetic power she exercises over him, and not to any love for her. It cannot be denied that, in every separation from her, the Prophet is not well, and is only restored in returning and living with her. In Brigham's public declarations he has stated that he only has sixteen wives. Mrs. Young declares he has nineteen wives, and gives the maiden name of each one; also, the names of forty-five living children. Of these wives fifteen are married to the Prophet for this world and for eternity, four are married to him for this world alone. These four were the wives of Joseph Smith when living, and are to be his in eternity. The children of these four wives by Brigham are to be Joseph's for his exaltation in the great hereafter, Brigham acting as proxy husband for this world. Of the Prophet's habits, we learn that he rises with Amelia at 10 o'clock, when his barber calls and makes him as good a looking man as possible, immediately after which breakfast is served by one of the older wives, they eating alone. At dinner, the Prophet, Amelia, Eliza Snow, the poetess, and the housekeeper of the bee-hive, have a table by themselves at one end of the room, with all the delicacies of the season, while the rest of the wives with their families, six of which reside in this house, dine at another table on the plainest fare."

GOSSIP.

The child who cried for an hour did not get it.

Jaffrey, N. H., has a woman 104 years old, Dorcas by name.

The coal trade of Buffalo will reach an aggregate of 1,270,000 tons the present year.

The Baltimore Base Ball Club has suspended, with liabilities amounting to $7,000.

It is remarked that wood will last much longer if left for the women folks to saw and split.

Taintor, the convicted Cashier, has been put to work in the shoe shop of the Albany penitentiary.

Between three and four hundred fishing schooners are reported to be laid up for the winter in Gloucester, Mass.

A Milwaukee brewing company has imported 180,000 bushels of barley and 300 bales of hops from Italy.

There is no solitude like that of the society of unlike, unsympathizing nature, kept together by external reasons.

It is a notorious fact that men who essay to manage the opinions of the world, invariably neglect their domestic affairs, and allow them to run to ruin.

Postal cards cost the Government $1.39½ per thousand, and, according to estimate, 120,300,000 will be required in 1874.

A Normal College professor holds "the State must not go back to the psychological, ethical genesis of a negative need."

A woman was married recently in Wayne county, Ind., who has three husbands living in the same town with the husband elect.

Chicago manufactories employ over 100,000 men, have an invested capital of $52,000,000, and turn out annually $125,000,000 worth of products.

The Common Council of Bridgeport has voted to expend $5,000 per month during the winter upon public works, to afford employment for those who need it.

The latest Indiana divorce is claimed on the ground that the lady is in training for a pedestrian match, which is not at all the sort of a match the husband bargained for.

The Judge of the City Court at Frankfort, Ky., Saturday, broke a cain over the head of a lawyer for addressing the court in disrespectful terms.

We cannot be too careful how we play with the English language. One day, recently, a married lady of Genesee, while admiring the falls from the Erie Railroad bridge, remarked: "Isn't that dam nice?"

Rev. George Pawell, of Fredonia, Vt., has been ordered out of business for "falsehood, mischief-making, plagiarism, and the lack of theological knowledge."

The Indianapolis Sentinel says: "The Lieutenant-Governor of Rhode Island writes poetry. This is the first instance on record where a lieutenant-governor ever did anything."

A fair young creature, with a penchant for cards, thus addresses an epistle to her masculine friend: "Come and play youcur with me this evening." And he got mad, and said a "graduate" who had such spells as that was no right bower for him.

"Perley" writes from Washington that Lady Thornton, wife of the English Minister, is in mourning, and there will not probably be any entertainment besides the usual formal receptions at the British Legation until it occupies its own house, now being built at a cost of £30,000. It has a substantial British look, being built of pressed brick, with stone caps and sills, and measuring upward of 100 feet each way.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam.

If you want a safe, reliable remedy for all diseases of the throat and lungs—one that has steadily grown in popular favor for more than a quarter of a century, and has the indorsement of physicians, clergymen, and all classes of people, use Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam for the Lungs. The great amount of evidence as to its efficacy in lung diseases will convince the most skeptical.

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Scovill's Blood and Liver Sirup has no superior as a reliable remedy in scrofula and the legion of diseases of the skin, bones and lymphatic glands, that arise from a scrofulous taint in the system.

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It will contain a splendid story by D. R. LOCKE, entitled
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FOURTH
Grand Gift Concert,
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
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OVER A MILLION IN BANK!
Success Assured!
A FULL DRAWING CERTAIN
On Tuesday, 31st of March, next

In order to meet the general wish and expectation of the public and the ticket-holders, for the full payment of the magnificent gifts, announced for the Fourth Grand Gift Concert of the Public Library of Kentucky, the management have determined to postpone the Concert and Drawing until

Tuesday, the 31st of March. 1874.

They have already realized

Over a Million Dollars,

And have a great many agents yet to hear from.

NO DOUBT IS ENTERTAINED OF THE SALE OF EVERY TICKET BEFORE THE DRAWING, BUT WHETHER ALL ARE SOLD OR NOT THE CONCERT AND DRAWING WILL POSITIVELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE DAY NOW FIXED, AND IF ANY REMAIN UNSOLD THEY WILL BE CANCELLED AND THE PRIZES WILL BE REDUCED IN PROPORTION TO THE UNSOLD TICKETS.

Only 60,000 tickets have been issued and

12,000 Cash Gifts,
$1,500,000

will be distributed among the ticket-holders. The tickets are printed in coupons, of tenths, and all fractional parts will be represented in the drawing just as whole tickets are.

LIST OF GIFTS:

One Grand Cash Gift		$250,000
One Grand Cash Gift		100,000
One Grand Cash Gift		50,000
One Grand Cash Gift		25,000
One Grand Cash Gift		17,500
10 Cash Gifts,	$10,000 each	100,000
30 Cash Gifts,	5,000 each	150,000
50 Cash Gifts,	1,000 each	50,000
80 Cash Gifts,	500 each	40,000
100 Cash Gifts,	400 each	40,000
150 Cash Gifts,	300 each	45,000
250 Cash Gifts,	200 each	50,000
325 Cash Gifts,	100 each	32,500
11,000 Cash Gifts,	50 each	550,000
Total, 12,000 Gifts, ALL CASH, amounting to		$1,500,000

The chances for a gift are as one to five.

PRICE OF TICKETS:

Whole tickets, $50; Halves, $25; Tenths, or each coupon, $5; Eleven Whole Tickets for $500; 22½ Tickets for $1,000; 113 Whole Tickets for $5,000; 227 Whole Tickets for $10,000. No discount on less than $500 worth of Tickets.

The Fourth Gift Concert will be conducted, in all respects, like the three which have already been given, and full particulars may be learned from circulars which will be sent free from this office to all who apply for them.

Orders for tickets and applications for agencies will be attended to in the order they are received, and it is hoped they will be sent in promptly that there may be no disappointment or delay in filling all. Liberal terms given to those who buy to sell again. All agents are peremptorily required to settle up their accounts and return all unsold tickets by the 20th day of March.

THOS. E. BRAMLETTE,
Agent Public Library, Kentucky, and Manager Gift Concert, Public Library Building, Louisville, Ky.

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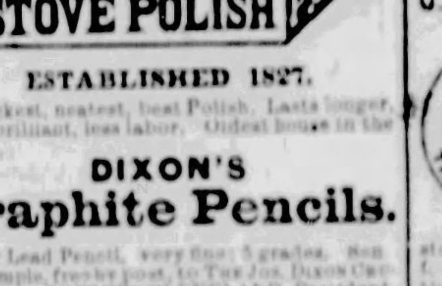

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4 prizes of	2,500	36 prizes of	200
20 prizes of	1,000	36 prizes of	150
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Tickets, $10; Half do, $5; Quarters, $2.50.

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13.	Croup, Cough, Difficult Breathing	25
14.	Salt Rheum, Erysipelas, Eruptions	25
15.	Rheumatism, Rheumatic Pains	25
16.	Fever and Ague, Chill Fever, Agues	50
17.	Piles, blind or bleeding	50
18.	Ophthalmy, and Sore or Weak Eyes	50
19.	Catarrh, acute or chronic, Influenza	50
20.	Whooping-Cough, violent coughs	50
21.	Asthma, oppressed Breathing	50
22.	Ear Discharges, impaired hearing	50
23.	Scrofula, enlarged glands, Swellings	50
24.	General Debility, Physical Weakness	50
25.	Dropsy and scanty Secretions	50
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ROYAL HAVANA LOTTERY.—$450,000 distributed in Prizes every 17 days. Orders filled, information furnished. Spanish Bank Bills and Governments purchased. TAYLOR & CO., Bankers, Removed to 11 Wall St., New York.

News of the Week.

WASHINGTON.

General Belknap, Secretary of War, is disposed to cut the estimates of the War Department down to the lowest possible limit. Those for military service proper received his personal attention, and were calculated as closely as possible; but he proposes to readjust them and reduce them as far as the actual requirements of the service will permit. The estimates of appropriations for fortifications, armament of forts, and for rivers and harbors, amounting in the aggregate to about $20,000,000, can be very materially reduced. Congress can decide as to locations where appropriations are to be made.

It appears that almost all the Departments are burdened with additional clerical work, by the operations of the act requiring separate accounts to be rendered under each head of appropriation and for each fiscal year, as well as by the numerous calls of Congress for reports.

Investigation as to the character of the Virginius will be conducted in New York. The Government is powerless to proceed against Patterson, to whom the register of the vessel was issued, on account of the statute of limitations.

The President states emphatically that the nomination of Attorney General Williams for Chief Justice would not be withdrawn, and that he had never contemplated such a thing.

Only three witnesses have been examined by the Senate Committee on Judiciary in connection with the nomination of Geo. H. Williams to be Chief Justice, namely: Assistant Attorney General Hill, A. J. Falls, Chief Clerk of the Department of Justice, and Representative Nesmith, of Oregon, the last named with reference to the adverse telegrams from that State. While some Senators think the nomination may ultimately be confirmed, others are of opinion that it will die in the committee.

A colored delegation, composed of Geo. F. Downing, Fred. Douglass and others, have had an interview by appointment, with Representative A. H. Stephens, of Georgia. Mr. Stephens freely admitted that colored men, as citizens, were entitled to full protection in their civil rights, without any invidious proscription, but that it was the duty of the respective States, and not of the Federal Government, to act in order to secure them.

Secretary Robeson, to complete the investigations into the Polaris disaster, has examined the three last members of the expedition who have very recently arrived here. There is no particular interest in the facts derived.

J. M. Thacker, Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Hamilton A. Hill and Wm. P. Blake, three members of the Permanent Committee appointed by the International Patent Congress, have issued a call for a Convention of all persons interested in patent protection, to be held in Washington, January 15th, to discuss the subject, and, if thought desirable, organize a United States Association.

As there is no absolute necessity for the heavy appropriations for the improvement of harbors, rivers and fortifications, under the Engineer's Bureau of the War Department, the estimates for such improvements, amounting to $20,000,000, will probably be reduced to $3,000,000.

The President has appointed Caleb Cushing Minister to Madrid, having accepted the resignation of Gen. Sickles. The nomination of Cushing will be sent to the Senate as soon as it assembles. It is understood that Cushing has accepted the position.

Gen. Aguilera, Vice President of the Cuban Republic, has been recalled to active duty, and will possibly sail on the Edgar Stewart.

Caleb Cushing has just had an interview with the President in reference to the Spanish mission which he has accepted.

The Third Assistant Postmaster General has completed a systematic and careful examination of the estimates recently submitted to Congress for the appropriations deemed necessary for the proper performance of the postal service during the next fiscal year, and the conclusion arrived at, after such revision, is that no reduction in the sums asked for can safely be made. The Postmaster General will submit to Congress plans and estimates for the improvement of the Postoffice Department building, together with a recommendation that an appropriation of $1,500,000 be made to enlarge the building.

The survivors, crew and passengers of the steamer Virginius have forwarded a memorial to President Grant, expressing their heartfelt and grateful thanks for the energetic measures taken for their timely rescue and delivery from death, or sentence to the chain gang or Spanish prison. Grateful mention is also made of Commander Braine.

The President has approved the bill removing the political disabilities of E. J. Harvie, Thos. S. Bocock and David Trigg, of Virginia, and John H. Ryan, of Texas.

The Treasurer commenced the payment of interest due on January first, without rebate.

General Sweet, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, is dangerously ill of pneumonia.

THE EAST.

At Boston, Dec. 23d, the wife of Alex. Agassiz, son of the late Professor, died of pneumonia, superinduced by fatigue in attendance upon her father-in-law.

Complete official returns make the majority for the new Pennsylvania Constitution, 145,150.

City Solicitor Healey gives his opinion, that women cannot legally serve on the Boston School Committee. Four women were chosen to that position at the recent election.

The Board of Trustees of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, at Boston, have adopted resolutions and made addresses in commemoration of the life and labors of Professor Agassiz.

It has been ascertained that Edson Bradley, the missing Broadway merchant, has fled to Canada, with $70,000 in gold to escape being prosecuted on [illegible] on a charge of fraudulent bankruptcy. His son, Major Bradley, was committed to Ludlow Street Jail on the charge of concealing property from his creditors. The complaint is made by his brother-in-law, Mr. Hoffman. All the parties were members of the firm of Edson, Bradley & Co., whose failure was recently announced.

The Bank of British North America, the Bank of Montreal and the Canadian Bank of Commerce, having declined to pay the State tax, Judge Barrett, of New York, rendered a decision that they, having all the protection of the laws of the State, are liable to taxation, and directs the Tax Commissioners to collect.

The monitor Montauk, at the navy yard since the war, will be taken to New York to be fitted for sea.

The U. S. Grand Jury has found two indictments against the firm of Towsend & Co., commission merchants, Boston, on a charge of aiding in procuring false entries of the cargoes of two vessels.

It is reported that the new Attorney General of New York has decided not to recognize any of the bargains made by his predecessor with Garvey, touching his immunity from prosecution in consideration of his turning State's evidence, believing all such bargains to be contrary to good morals and sound public policy. [illegible] watch every movement of Garvey, and will arrest him if he attempts to leave the city.

The following dispatch dated Montreal, the 26th, was received in New York on the 27th: "Genet, under the name of George T. Jackson, passed through here last night and went to Toronto." The friends of Genet say he will return to New York, within two weeks, and surrender himself; that he is in Canada, and is only waiting to arrange certain matters before his return.

The survivors of the Polaris Arctic expedition will meet in the Metropolitan Hotel, New York, Tuesday next, and petition Congress for additional compensation, owing to their impaired health.

Governor Dix has ordered a special election in New York for a member of the Assembly, in place of Harry Genet, convicted of felony.

Foreign papers contain telegrams from Corrunna and Gibraltra announcing the total loss of the steamer Becalow, of Newcastle, England. One man only, out of a crew of 23, having been saved.

THE WEST.

A procession of 800 to 1,000 laboring men, mostly Germans, made a demonstration in Cincinnati on the 22d ult., by marching through the streets. They assembled in Fountain Square, and sent for General Samuel F. Carey, who addressed them, counseling moderation, reminding them that capitalists and employers as well as they are suffering from the times. The procession went to the Mayor's office, and were met by the Chief of Police, who met them as a representative of the Mayor. The speeches made there were only an exchange of compliments. A representative of the procession thanked the Mayor and denounced other members of the Board of Improvements for lowering their wages.

All the leading gamblers of Omaha were arrested Dec. 22d, by the Sheriff for violation of the strict law, passed by the Legislature against gambling, and will be brought before the District Court.

The Anti-Monopolist Convention at Franklin, Mo., resulted in the nomination of Conrad J. Chever, the present incumbent, who is a prominent Granger, to fill the place in the Legislature caused by the death of Hon. E. A. Layton.

Judge Hager, of San Francisco, anti-railroad candidate for the United States Senate for the short term, was elected at Sacramento, on the second ballot.

The criminal jurisdiction of the Probate Courts is again denied by Judge McKean, of Utah. In the case of Kiesel, sentenced to ten years to the penitentiary for rape, the action of the Probate Court was set aside, and the prisoner held to bail to answer to the District Court. There is some talk of the counsel having the Probate officials arrested.

The telegraph says: Major Edward Wright, late paymaster U. S. A., and one of the oldest and wealthiest citizens of Chicago, died suddenly Dec. 24th, at the residence of his father-in-law, Hon. E. Peck.

Judge Goddin, of the Seventh Judicial District of Kansas, has decided a test case involving the title of the Osage ceded lands in that State, in favor of settlers, holding that Railroads have no grant through these lands. The case will probably be appealed.

Ex-City Treasurer Gage, of Chicago, has transferred to the city his entire real and personal property, amounting in the aggregate to $528,500, and including $147,500 of certificates of suspended bonds, in which he had city bonds deposited. The valuation of the bonds thus surrendered was made by the corporation lawyers upon the best information obtained, and is, probably no more than will be realized in cash from it.

Four hundred and sixty thousand hogs have been slaughtered in Cincinnati since November 1st, against 380,000 for the corresponding period last year.

The Cincinnati Board of Trade on Saturday adopted a resolution protesting against the repeal of the Bankrupt law; especially the involuntary clause, and recommending amendments reducing the expenses of enforcing the law by reducing the fees of officers, and that section 39 be amended to make 30 instead of 14 days in reference to the suspension of commercial paper.

A review of the produce trade of Chicago, Illinois, for the past year, published December 29th, shows the receipts of grain during the year to be 96,731,598 bus.; shipments, 91,035,703 bus. Receipts of hogs, 4,360,000; cattle, 76,500; sheep, 300,000. Of lumber, 1,084,993,000 feet have been received, and the total value of all the produce received during the year, in round numbers, is $240,000,000.

THE SOUTH.

Representatives Wilson and Eldridge, of the Judiciary Committee, left Washington Saturday for New Orleans. It is their intention, while avoiding State politics and complications, to investigate all acts of the Federal court which it is charged that Judge Durrel's official conduct.

Advices from Tuscan, Arizona, state that a terrible tragedy occurred December 10th, at Lincoln, New Mexico, in which David Warner, Mr. Herrold, J. L. Gynn, and Juan Martin were killed. Martin, Constable, with a posse tried to arrest the others. Warner killed him, the Sheriff's posse killed Warner and the other two named were also found dead, riddled with bullets.

John S. Hopkins, the reputed wealthiest citizen of Baltimore, died on Wednesday, Dec 23d, aged 39 years. In March last, Mr. Hopkins gave his property, valued at $4,000,000, to found a free hospital for the indigent sick connected with what is known as the Training School for Nurses. He also made ample provision for a home for colored orphans, and set apart 15,000 shares of Baltimore & Ohio railroad stock, valued at $2,000,[illegible] to found a University on his Clifton estate. Mr. Hopkins was unmarried.

Shakespeare Caldwell, formerly a member of Congress from Louisville, but now of New York, turned over to the poor of Louisville, on Christmas Day, a handsome building for hospital purposes which he has had erected at a cost of $80,000. The edifice is to be called "The Hospital of St. Mary and St. Elizabeth," and is to be under the charge of the Sisters of Charity of the Nazareth Community.

The Attorney General has recommended to the President the pardon of Ringgold Young and Neal Haskins of Alabama, convicted of Ku Klux outrages some time ago, and sentenced to the penitentiary.

FOREIGN.

Great Britain.

The London Times of Dec. 23d, in alluding to the report that Spain has made a demand upon the United States for the restoration of the steamship Virginius and survivors, surrendered at Santiago de Cuba, says such action on the part of Spain would be premature despite the opinion of the Attorney General of the United States that the Virginius had no right to carry the American flag. Spain must wait until the United States Courts have settled the case of the vessel before proceeding further in the matter.

At London, December 23, the Bowles Bros. & Co. bankrupt case was adjourned sine die. The creditors favor the funding project.

The Daily News reports that the hostile tone of recent pastorals issued by the French Bishops, has caused the German Government to renew its complaints to France.

An official denial is given to the story of the New York Times that the English Government demanded the punishment of Gen. Burriel.

At five o'clock Friday morning the steamer Gipsy Queen, belonging to the River Tyne Improvement Commissioners, struck the wreck of a broken barge, and went to the bottom in five minutes. There were between 50 and 60 workmen on board at the time of the disaster. Twenty of them were rescued, and the remainder, 30 or 40 men, were drowned.

France.

Chevalier Nigra, Italian Minister, had an interview with President MacMahon, and proposed a resumption of cordial relations between France and Italy. There is strong opposition to the proposed grant of money to ex Empress Eugenie.

The report of Bazaine's flight is unfounded. It is now stated that the ex-Marshal is to leave Paris for St. Marguerite, his place of imprisonment.

In the Assembly on the 23d, several members alluded to the imperfect postal arrangements between France and the United States, and urged the government to hasten the signing of the pending Convention. They complained of the present situation, declaring it to be injurious to French commerce, and to the people at large. The Financial Secretary replied that it was the government's desire to harmonize the interests of the two countries, and a speedy understanding was expected.

The civil burial of Francois Hugo took place on the 28th. M. Louis Blanc delivered the funeral oration at the late residence of the deceased. Victor Hugo and all the leading Radicals of Paris were present. A long procession followed the remains to the place of interment.

Spain.

Generals Monones and Loma have returned to the province of Biscay with 15,000 men.

The Epoca publishes a letter from General Sickles, declaring that early in the Virginius dispute the Intransigents of Madrid proposed to make a demonstration hostile to the United States. The Epoca denies that there was any such intention, and regrets that Gen. Sickles took no pains to contradict the dispatch from America reporting that such a demonstration had actually taken place.

Dispatches of the 26th ult., say: Fourteen thousand Republican troops under Gen. Morionas have left San Sebastian by the sea. Their destination is not known. Gen. Lorna, with a force of 3,000 Government troops, remains in the city.

A desperate conflict between a band of Carlists and a Republican force, occurred recently before Bocayrente, in the province of Valencia. The Insurgents were defeated with a heavy loss in killed and wounded.

The Municipal authorities of Madrid have been suspended.

The insurgents, on the 19th inst., entered the cultivated zone of the jurisdiction of Puerto Principe, destroying everything within reach. They met with a repulse before Fort Diamont, in a subsequent attack on a detachment of the civil guards, and lost several killed. The latest report say they are now in full retreat, pursued by the Spanish troops.

Castelar, Salermon and Figueras held a conference on the 27th. The Correspondencia thinks that it will result in a complete agreement, but the Imparcial and Diaro say an understanding is impossible.

The report is reiterated that the Spanish Government requires of the United States the restitution of the Virginius and payment of an indemnity.

Cuba.

A dispatch to the Tribune from Key West contains the following: "The Virginius' prisoners surrendered at Santiago De Cuba say that when the officers from the Tornado boarded the Virginius one of them, in hauling down the flag of the United States, tore it into ribbons and trampled on it, asserting, with an oath, 'This is what I have wanted.'" The situation in Santiago De Cuba is reported as very serious. Only last week 25 citizens were arrested and after a mock trial, without any evidence being adduced against them, they were told to go home, and on the way they were cruelly waylaid and killed, only one escaping. The Americans are continually in fear of their lives, and bitterly complain that nothing has been done to redress their wrongs. It is not safe for an American officer to go ashore alone at Santiago. All along the river line the Spaniards are erecting new batteries.

The appointment of Cushing as Minister to Spain is favorably received at Havana. The Spaniards are fond in expressions of satisfaction at the resignation of Sickles, whom they charge with instigating many of the intestine troubles of the Peninsula.

The Madrid Government has not only refused to accept the resignation of Captain General Jovellar, which was forwarded on the 4th inst., but has granted him extended and extraordinary powers. The nature of these powers is not yet known, but it is supposed they embrace the authority to declare the Island in a state of siege, should the Captain General find it necessary. The Home Government also offers additional reinforcements.

The Voz publishes extracts from letters recently captured from rebels, the originals of which it claims to have in its possession. One from Gen. Fiquerado to Maximo Gomez, referring to the deposition of President Cespedes, says that the members of the new government proceeded to the residence of Cespedes to obtain the archives of the Republic. Cespedes at first refused to give them up, but finally yielded, being forced to do so. The charges upon which Cespedes was removed are, according to Fiquerado's letter, as follows: First, The abandonment of Cinco Villas; Second, The violation of article XXVIth of the Constitution; Third, Placing obstacles in the way of the new Deputies, so that they could not fulfil their duties; Fourth, After the removal of said obstacles, attempting to bribe the Deputies from Cinco Villas by offers of the Ministry of War, to Spotomo, and the command of Cinco Villas District to Garcia Fiquerado [illegible] other accusations even graver, such as having calumniated the legislative body, being a traitor, and conniving with Autonomists abroad, and lastly, threatening to declare the members of Congress rebels, if they deposed him.

Jamaica.

President Soget, of Hayti, will not vacate his office unless Gen Domingue is declared his successor, and a portion of the House of Representatives says he shall not be President. Trouble in consequence is imminent.

A company is forming in Jamaica and in London for the extension of railways throughout Jamaica.

The yellow fever has broken out at Port Royal among the troops.

Prussia.

A special from Berlin to the Times says that in consequence of alarming rumors in regard to the health of Emperor William, an anxious crowd filled the square opposite the Royal Palace Tuesday night. People were assured from the balcony that the Emperor was comparatively well, although confined to his room, but they refused to disperse.

The Hague.

A dispatch from Penang, December 20th, announces that the Dutch troops occupied both banks of the river running through Acheen. The Sultan, seeing defeat was inevitable, has given in his submission to the Dutch commander.

San Domingo.

News has been received from San Domingo that General Ignacio Gonzales has been elected President of the Republic. The new administration will endeavor to annul the Samana lease.

Italy.

In the Consistory, the Pope delivered an allocution and appointed 12 Cardinals.

The Rector of the American College has remitted to the Pope $25,000, contributed by the faithful of the United States.

South America.

Special dispatches at London, (Eng.) from Cartagena announce that Fort San Julian, one of the strongest defences of the city has been breached. An accidental explosion in the Perial battery Dec. 25th, killed twenty officers and men of the besieging force.

RAILROAD STRIKE.

Reduction of Wages—Engineers and Firemen on Strike.

The locomotive engineers and firemen on the leased lines of the Pan Handle Railroad west of Pittsburg struck on Friday, at noon, in resistance of a reduction of 10 per cent. on salaries. The strike resulted in a general stoppage of trains, none leaving Columbus since noon Friday. A press reporter interviewed a delegation of engineers, and was assured that all they want is a restoration of the salaries paid previous to December 1st. They also declare that they will not interfere with any one who wishes to run their engines. A train was run in from Dennison Friday night by John Sammons, a Master of Transportation. Just as the engine pulled into the depot at Columbus, Sammons was struck on the head with a missile thrown by some unknown party, but was not injured. The engineers assert positively that this was not done by any of their men. The engineers further say that the strike is made only after two respectful protests against the reduction had been sent to headquarters without accomplishing the object sought. Mr. D. W. Caldwell, the superintendent of the lines west of this point, states that on December 1st a reduction of 10 per cent. was made on the salaries of all the officers and attaches of these lines, and that the engineers and firemen are the only parties who have not acceded to this arrangement. This reduction was made by reason of the financial condition of the country, and a desire to keep all their men employed and pay them regularly.

A dispatch from Cincinnati also says that a strike of the engineers and firemen on the Pan Handle Road commenced there at noon Friday. The strike is against the reduction of 10 per cent. in wages of these employes from the 1st of the present month, of which the agents of the Company say previous notice was given. Since noon two passenger trains and all freight trains on the Pan Handle were unable to leave the city. The report is that all branches of the Pan Handle and Pennsylvania Central are affected by this strike. The reports concerning it conflict in respect to the time and warning of the strike. One story is that the strikers were to leave the train wherever it might be at 12 o'clock Friday, and it is said this was done on the down train at Xenia, and that the conductor and brakeman took the locomotive and brought the train to the city. Another story is that all the strikers on the trains before 12 o'clock noon should take them to their destination before leaving them.

The Pan-Handle officers are doing all they can to keep the trains running. The railroad shops in the eastern part of Cincinnati have stopped to allow the mechanics to take the place of the striking engineers. Out of seven passenger trains to leave the city Friday afternoon, four went and three had to remain there. Nothing better is anticipated for Saturday. Up to midnight no freight had left since noon. The officers had no intelligence of the strike till noon, the hour appointed for it to begin. They had a vague rumor of a contemplated strike, which came last night, but gave no indication as to when it would begin. It was not credited. Dispatches to the Gazette from Richmond, Indiana, and various other points, report the strike simultaneous on all the branches of the Pan-Handle road.

Superintendent Ellison, who went out on the 9:45 Pan Handle train east reports an attempt to throw the train off the track at Pendleton, which is in the eastern part of Cincinnati, about three miles from the depot. He says the attempt was made by winding something around the rail in two places together. At the first obstruction the locomotive jumped the track, and striking the second obstruction took the track again and ran on without injury. The precise character of the obstruction has not yet been ascertained.

A dispatch from Chicago says that the engineers and firemen on the Illinois Central, Great Eastern, the Northwestern, and the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne Roads struck at noon on Friday, and no trains went out on either of these roads Friday night. The strike is on account of a recent reduction of wages. It is thought a sufficient number of engineers will be obtained to put the usual trains on all these roads.

The train dispatcher at the offices of the Illinois Central, the Northwestern, and the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne Railroad, in Chicago, deny the report that there is any strike of engineers and firemen on these Roads, and asserts that there is no cause for any strike, as their wages have not been reduced.

A dispatch from Pittsburg says: A great strike took place to-day among the locomotive engineers of the Pan Handle, Fort Wayne & Chicago, Erie & Pittsburg, and Cleveland & Pittsburg Railroads, operated by the Pennsylvania Company. The cause of the strike was a reduction of 10 per cent. in wages from December 1st. This reduction includes the salaries of all officials, clerks, conductors, engineers, and other employees. The engineers have concluded to demand a restoration of former prices, and if not granted they will declare a general strike. The officers of the Company are making every exertion to fill the places of the men, and trains are expected to depart as usual to-night.

The locomotive engineers on the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad, struck Friday at noon. The passenger trains were somewhat delayed at Cleveland but were all run through. Several freights were abandoned. It is reported that there is a misunderstanding among the engineers, and the strike is without the authority of the brotherhood; also, that only 25 or 39 engineers went out, and these have asked to be reinstated. With the exception of the freights, trains are running as usual. There is no trouble whatever on other Roads centering at Cleveland.

At Columbus, Dec. 27, the excitement over the engineer's strike was unabated here. One train left for Pittsburgh this morning in charge of the Master of Transportation, Mr. Simmons. A posse was sent on this train to Dennison, there to receive orders from the Sheriff. A dispatch was received by Manager Caldwell from headquarters in Pittsburgh, stating that the engineers on the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Division have gone to work and signed a paper agreeing if they are given employment they will not strike again, and denounce the Brotherhood as the cause of their trouble. A train has just arrived from Pittsburgh. Hundreds of able bodied loafers who throng the depot are expressing intense regret that there is so little fun going on.

The engineers of the Cleveland & Pittsburg Railroad struck at 12 o'clock Dec. 27th, and returned to work the next day. All trains are running on time.

The striking engineers held a meeting in Columbus on the 28th ult., for religious exercises. The meeting was attended by 200 persons. A general interchange of sentiment was had on the situation. Letters were read from engineers of other roads, offering to donate half their salaries to sustain the strike, if necessary. The engineers resolved to stand firm in their demands, and a generally hopeful spirit was manifested. The Brotherhood here are especially anxious to have the public understand that they are opposed to a resort to violence or force to prevent any persons from running their engines.

Superintendent Ellison is in receipt of dispatches from the Superintendents of the Pan Handle and Columbus, Chicago & Indiana Central Divisions, that the outlook is better than at any time previous since the strike. The best engineers have expressed a regret for having struck, but have not asked to be taken back. The leading engineer at Morrow said that he would go to Cincinnati and try to induce his fellow engineers to recant, and ask to be taken back on the Company's terms. The firemen have commenced coming back, and some of them have been received. The Superintendent will make it an occasion for dropping the poorest men. He has had not less than fifty applications from engineers of other roads, coming, however, without recommendation, and therefore not engaged. Four engineers have been engaged. Neither of the two passenger trains due out started from Cincinnati on the 27th.

A train on the Pittsburgh, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad left the Union Depot at 6:30 P. M., on the 27th, in charge of Harry Vance, an engineer, but before the train reached the outskirts of the city a shot was fired which took effect in Vance's arm, and caused a slight flesh wound. The shot was fired by a striking engineer, whose name could not be learned. Several policemen at the time were on board the engine, and the man was arrested.

The Sheriff of Cass county telegraphed from Logansport on the 27th ult., for assistance to quell a disturbance there, and two companies, numbering 150 men, were sent out by the Indianapolis, Pennsylvania & Chicago Road, in command by General Don Macauley. A train from Chicago for Richmond went over the road, but did not stop at Logansport.

A dispatch from Chicago dated 27th says: Everything quiet here to-day, and railroad matters improving. Passenger trains arrived on the Pittsburg, Chicago & St. Louis Road from Columbus at 1:30 this A. M., and one train went east on the same at 3 o'clock this P. M. Superintendent Miller, of the First Division, in charge of another train from Columbus, will arrive at about 10 P. M. On the Louisville Road one train arrived at 8:30 P. M. The train with troops which left here yesterday afternoon for Logansport, was ditched at Walheim, five miles east of Logansport, on the Pan Handle, caused by a switch being tampered with. The soldiers marched into Logansport, arriving there at 4 o'clock in the morning. Dispatches received from General Macauley reports everything quiet to-day. No effort has been made by the strikers to prevent the moving of trains. Guards have been placed along the Railroad track and in the Railroad yards.

The following communication was furnished the agent of the associated press at Cleveland on the 28th ult:

"The strike now in operation on the leased lines of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., is in direct violation of the rules of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. My advice to every member of the Brotherhood who has quit work on account of the strike, is to go to work at once, and to use every influence in their power to induce all persons engaged in the strike to resume work, and to desist from any interference with the Companies' property or men. In my opinion, no dishonor will be attached to any man who accepts a situation from the Pennsylvania Railway Company during the present difficulties.

"CHARLES WILSON,
"Grand Chief Engineer.
"Cleveland, Dec. 28."

It is understood that the engineers of the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad go to work, accepting the reduction.

A train from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati on the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railroad, due at 6:30 Sunday morning, arrived at 11 at night. At Cadiz, O., between 5 and 6 o'clock it ran into a misplaced switch, but fortunately escaped serious damage. Soap had been placed in the tank at Columbus, from which its locomotive took water at 3 o'clock, which rendered the water bad for making steam, and exposed the locomotive to the danger of blowing up and caused it to stop at London to blow off steam, and to renew the water in the tender and boiler.

At Columbus, Dec. 29th, Gov. Noyes received a telegram from Adjutant General Knapp, who went to Dennison to investigate the necessity for the interference of State authorities to keep the peace among the striking engineers and firemen. He reports that on the arrival of a militia company from Steubenville order was easily restored, and has been since maintained without difficulty. He anticipates no further trouble. Three trains arrived to-day in charge of master mechanics and assistants from Cincinnati, Pittsburg and Indianapolis.

THE VIRGINIUS.

The Navy Department has full official reports from Rear Admiral Scott, giving a detailed account of the surrender of the Virginius. The report does not differ materially from those contained in the official and other telegrams already published. The latest dispatch from Admiral Scott is dated Key West, December 19, as follows:

"SIR:—I have the honor to enclose herewith, a copy of the letter of December 17, from Captain Whiting, relating to the surrender of the Virginius. I received further communications from him this morning, by the tug Fortune, dated the 18th inst., in which he says: 'I feared this morning that I would have to call upon you for assistance to get the Virginius ready for her passage, but am glad to say that now she is in a fair way toward completion. During the night 22 tons of coal were taken in, but at 8 A. M. it was found that the water had gained very much upon her. I stopped coaling, and with the assistance of the Ossipee, then coaling from the other side of the schooner, all the pumps and lines of bucket men were started. Up to 11 A. M. the water did not diminish apparently, and the steam pumps of the Ossipee were brought into use by attaching lengths of hose for suction. In the meantime a leak was found about the stern, which partly accounted for the increase of water. The difficulty was to get the water below the grate bars, so that the fires could be started and the steam bilge pumps used. The water has been decreasing regularly since meridian and the fires are about to be started. The Ossipee will be ready to start to-night when the preparations on the Virginius are completed. I send the coal schooner back in tow of the Potomac. I can not dispose of more than 60 or 70 tons. I have decided that no more coal shall be put in the Virginius, and that the Ossipee shall tow her to New York, using the Virginius' engines only to work the bilge pumps and overcome the drag of the wheels.'"

A reporter of the Tribune, who boarded the Juniata immediately after her arrival, obtained full particulars from a variety of sources concerning the treatment received by the prisoners at the hands of their Spanish captors. All these reports agree in one particular, namely: that the treatment received was uniformly harsh, and, in some cases, barbarous. A fact which is not generally known, by the statements of the prisoners now comes to light, which is that they were robbed by the crew of the Tornado, and nearly all who owned anything were robbed of money, jewelry, watches, and other valuables.

The prisoners were taken to the jail at Santiago soon after their arrival in port. Here they were crowded together like [illegible] They were not assigned to separate cells; indeed, there was no opportunity for such confinement in the contracted quarters of the Santiago jail, but the entire party of nearly two hundred were driven into a small room hardly 50 feet long by 15 feet wide. Here they were obliged to live as best they could, though the air, of course, was most deadly, and there was little or no opportunity for exercise. The prisoners were supplied with provisions, which, though sufficient as regards quantity, were poor in quality, and hardly fitted to sustain life. These provisions consisted almost wholly of rice and water.

One night the prisoners were stealthily taken from jail and marched with the greatest haste to a point nine miles below the city, in the vicinity of Morro. Their road lay through a rough tract of country, and the journey was most wearisome; while some of the prisoners were so sick as to be almost unable to stand. The sufferings of some of the number were intense; and no pity was in the breasts of the Spaniards. At this point on the coast, they were placed on board the steamer Bazan, which at once set sail for Havana. At Manzanilla it was met by the mail steamer coming in an opposite direction. On board this steamer was Gen. Burriel, who at once ordered the Bazan to return to Santiago. She turned about, but soon after ran aground, and the passengers were transferred to another vessel. Here they suffered horrors heretofore unknown. They were crowded into the hold of the vessel where scarcely a ray of sunlight could struggle in. The air was poison; the darkness almost continuous; the food they ate was wretched in quality and insufficient in quantity; the water they drank was what remained in the buckets after the dumb animals on board were satisfied. These animals consisted mainly of horses and mules. They were kept on deck above the Virginius prisoners, and were thus a constant source of annoyance to the helpless prisoners confined below. It is said that amid all this filth and suffering, the prisoners were not allowed to wash, while on the Bazan, for a period of ten days, and while their arms were pinioned behind them for the larger part of the voyage. They were occasionally beaten on the slightest provocation at all. These punishments, however, seem not to have been of a nature so serious as to produce any lasting effects.

Commander Braine said to the Tribune reporter that "the feeling at Santiago against Americans is exceedingly bitter, and Vice Consul Schmidt is actually in danger of his life. He has several times been threatened with assassination, and I think one of our men-of-war ought to be stationed there permanently, at least until the feeling subsides, as I hope it will. Vice Consul Schmidt was abused most shamefully in their daily papers, and it was only by my personal intercession with the Governor that they were stopped. The Juniata, when about 150 miles from Cape Hatteras, encountered a terrific gale, which drove her 60 miles out of her course.

District Attorney Bliss has begun the official investigation of the Virginius' passengers. He declines to make public the nature of the evidence sought to be obtained from the prisoners. It is understood, however, that the principal points to be cleared up is the exact status of the Virginius and who are her owners; and whether she is entitled to fly the American flag, and how far the neutrality laws have been violated. All these points will have a strong bearing on the question, whether the United States Government will comply with the demands of Spain.

From a conversation with the officers of the Juniata, it seems that there is a preconcerted plan among the prisoners to profess entire ignorance as to the nature of the Virginius at the time of the capture, and as to the transportation of arms to the Cubans. It is thought that this action has been agreed upon with a view to avoid trouble with this Government through a breach of the neutrality laws. There is certainly great unanimity among them regarding the main points at issue. The statements of all the prisoners agree in disavowing any knowledge of the purposes of the officers of the Virginius. They profess to have embarked as passengers, to have seen no arms on board, and to have seen little or nothing thrown overboard.

It has been ascertained from official sources that on the arrival of the Virginius at New York she will be seized by the Collector of the port and libelled by the District Attorney, in accordance with instructions. If on judicial investigation it be shown that her register was obtained by fraud, she will be sold and the proceeds of the sale paid to the United States. Spain can make claim to the vessel, but if she should it is positively certain that our Government would not entertain such a claim. The report that the Spanish Government requires of the United States the restoration of the Virginius and the payment of indemnity is not believed in official quarters.

How the Fantee Women Stimulate Masculine Courage.

A Cape Coast Castle correspondent of an English paper, under date of Oct. 30, writes: At the present moment, when a battle is imminent, and is perhaps now being fought, there are perhaps now in Cape Coast a number of loiterers who ought to be at the front, but who will not go, and cannot be driven to it by any means that we can adopt, for, if the women of the place were to take it into their heads to raise a war cry, you would not be able to find a man in or near the town in an hour's time. They only resort to these extreme measures on an emergency, and when they themselves become convinced of the necessity of the men going to war; but when they do, their manner of procedure, although most peculiar, is most effective. It is as follows: Armed with scourges, and clothed in the garb of nature, they issue forth on a given morning, and [illegible] through every street and corner of the town; and woe betide the skulking coward who may fall into their hands, as he will receive no mercy from his captors, who will probably leave him half dead. A few years ago, I think it was in 1868, when the Fantees were engaged in besieging Elmina, a war at the time most popular with all the classes, an officer of the garrison, who was very sick, and was living in lodgings in the town, was being attended by a favorite Fantee servant, who had been in the service for some considerable period. Having one day occasion to send him to the castle for something he required, he was surprised to find that he did not return. So, after waiting some time, he sent to make inquiries, when it turned out that the unfortunate man had hardly left the house when he was viewed by a gang of these women, who were hunting up stragglers, and immediately gave him chase. He escaped into the castle and saved his bacon; but nothing could induce him to again venture out until some kind of permit was obtained for his remaining in town. The reason assigned for the women behaving in this extraordinary manner is, that all the men being supposed to have left for the [illegible] they have the town all to themselves and therefore privileged to [illegible] they please, and to punish any [illegible] to intrude. I may remark, however, that this privilege is reserved for those *qui sont mères de famille*, young girls and women who have been [illegible] are compelled to be content to act as spectators, and hope for the time when they will have the glorious privilege of playing the part of an infuriated [illegible]

The Markets.

Produce Markets.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Cotton 16¼c. for middling uplands. Flour—market is firm and unchanged; receipts 27,000 bush; sales 10,000 bu; $6 50@7 80 for extra state; $6 55@8 25 for round hoop Ohio. Wheat is scarce and advancing; receipts 102,050 bu; sales 82,000 bu; 161c for No 2 Milwaukee; 158c for No 2 Chicago. Rye—market is quiet. Corn—market is reported firmer; receipts 6,000 bush; sales 38,000 bush; [illegible] for western mixed in store; 85c for do afloat. Barley quiet and steady. Oats firmer; receipts 38,700 bu; sales 29,000 bushel at 58c for western mixed; 60c for white western. Pork is quiet at $16 25 for new mess. Cut Meats are steady. Beef unchanged. Lard—the market to-day is reported steady at 8⅝c for steam, and 9c for kettle. Whiskey is firm at 97½c. Sugar steady. Petroleum—5⅛c for crude and 13⅝c for refined.

TOLEDO, TUESDAY MORNING, Dec. 30.—Flour—The market is quiet at about previous quotations: … fine at $4 00; Superfine, $4 50; Extra … Double Extra and Fancy, $6 50@… best, $8 00. Wheat—The market … has been without special features … generally vary but little from … with sales of Amber at … for January, and 1¼c seller … White Michigan 160c, No 1 … above the views of … Michigan 145c; No 2 … and No. 3 at 149½c. … at 152½c; No 2 … 45@145½c; No 3 Red … rejected Red at 120c … without buyers … Wheat sold at 120c for No 2; Rejected was in request at 90c, with sellers asking 100c; Amber Illinois was called for and 145c bid for No 2. Corn—The market has ruled moderatively active and prices are 1@2c advance, with spot high-mixed 61c, New, 59½c; in options, seller January sold at 1c advance at 6[illegible]c; seller February, 62¼c; New Corn changed hands 60½c seller January; Low-mixed Corn ruled quiet at 59½c for Regular and 58c for New; No Grade Corn 58c; New 56½c spot and seller 10 days; White Corn 63c; Yellow was offered at 61½c without inquiry; Damaged Corn 53c for old and 52½c for New. Oats—The market is dull and prices are lower, with sales of No 1 at 45½c, and No 2 at 44½c, Michigan Oats were held at 45c, without purchasers. Clover Seed quiet at $5 50 for … Mammoth $5 40. Dressed Hogs … and prices 25@30c per … weight advance, with sales at $5 20@5 25, closing with buyers at $5 30, but no sellers. Pork firm at $16@16 50 for light and heavy mess. Lard 8@9c for prime in bbls and kegs. Butter, 25@27c. Potatoes, 105c for peach blows; common and mixed 90@100c. Green apples, $2 00@2 50 per bbl; dried apples 8c per lb. Mill Feed—$16 for bran, $16@16 50 for shorts and $20@22 for middlings per ton. Beans, 200c for small navy and 175c for large white per bushel. Poultry—7@8c for chickens, and 10@11c for turkeys dressed per lb. Pine Lumber—The market is quiet, with Clear, $50; Second Clear $45; Common boards, $15; Stock Boards, $16; Fencing, $12; Joists and Scantling, $15@20. Shingles in moderate demand; A 1, 18 sawed, $5; No 1 do, $3.75; No 2, $2 50@… a 1 18 shaved, $6 25. Lath, $2.75. Cedar Posts, 20c.

OSWEGO, December 27.—Wheat quiet; No 1 Milwaukee, 158c. Corn steady; mixed, 75c. Barley quiet; Canada held at 162@165c.

BUFFALO, Dec. 29.—Wheat inactive and holders are firm. Corn dull; sales 14,0[illegible] bu No 2 mixed western in lots at 70c. Oats and Rye neglected, but held firm. Barley inactive—no sales.

DETROIT, December 29.—Wheat stronger; extra white 15[illegible]; No 1, 151c; No 2 white and No 1 amber—no sales. Corn nominal. Oats nominal. Barley 170@185c. Dressed hogs $6 25. Clover Seed $5 15.

CLEVELAND, December 27.—Grain very dull. Wheat nominal at 158c for No 1 red, 148c for No 2 do. Corn, steady at 65@66c for old and 63@61c for new. Oats quiet at 48c for No 1 State, 46c for No 2 do, and 49c for white. Petroleum steady and unchanged at 11c for standard white in car lots.

PHILADELPHIA, December 27.—Flour firm; superfine, $4 50@5 50; State, Ohio and Indiana do, $7 50@8 00. Wheat dull; red, 154@160c; amber, 164@170c; white, 170@185c. Rye steady at 95c. Corn—yellow, 77@80c for old and 7[illegible]@68c for new; white, 70c. Oats dull; white 55@58c; mixed, 51c. Crude Petroleum 9½c; refined, 13½c. Whiskey [illegible]c.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 29.—Flour quiet and firm. Wheat firm at 146@147c. Corn in good demand at 54@57c. Oats quiet at 43@50c. Whiskey quiet at 95c. Cotton firm at 15¼c. Pork firm at $15 00. Lard firm; kettle, at 8@8¾c; steam 8¼c. Bacon scarce and firm; shoulders, 7½c; clear rib 8¼c; clear 8¾c. Bulk meats quiet and firm; shoulders 6c; clear rib 7c; clear 7¼c.—Green meats firm; shoulders at 5½c; clear rib 6¾c; clear 7c; hams 8@9c. Hogs active and firm; sales range at $4 85@5 3[illegible]; receipts 6,089.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29, 1873.

Wheat active and higher; 115¼c cash; 115¾c for Jan; 119c for Feb. Corn active and higher at 53½c cash; 53¾c seller January; 55c bid for Feb. Oats firm at 38c cash; 39½c for Feb. Barley quiet and unchanged. Whiskey steady at 93c. Pork active and higher at $14 25 cash; $14 80 seller Feb. Lard strong and higher at $8 40 cash; $8 75 for Feb. Meats higher; shoulders 5¾c; loose short ribs 7c; loose green meat ½@1c better. Hogs—receipts, 160,000; active and higher at 4 90@5 40.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 26.—Flour firm and unchanged. Wheat firmer but quiet; No 2 spring at 12[illegible]@130c; No 3 fall 138@140c. Corn firm new mixed at 51c on east track. Oats higher at 41½@43c at elevator. Barley unchanged. Rye steady at 82c. Whiskey firm at 95c. Pork nominal at $14@14 50. Dry salt firmly at 5½@7¼c; spot sales of shoulders and clear rib up country at 5½@7½c. Green meats—none offering. Bacon—none cut. Lard nominal at 7½@8c; some holding at 8¼c. Hogs higher but inactive at $4 7[illegible]@5 20; but at $4 90@5 10; receipts 6,526.

BALTIMORE, December 27.—Flour quiet and unchanged … western superfine, $4 75@6 00; do extra, $6 50@7 00; do family, $7 25@8 75. Wheat—quiet and unchanged; choice white, 185c; fair to prime, 175@180c; choice amber, 185c; good to prime red, 175@18[illegible]c; common to fair, 150@170c; Ohio and Indiana, 155@160c; western amber 165@170c … mixed western firm at 78c; … Oats firmer; mixed western, … Rye firm at 88@95c … Mess Pork $15 50. Bulk Meats—… clear rib 8¼c. Bacon—shoulders … clear rib, 8¾c. Hams—sugar cured, 12… Lard 8½@8¾c. Butter firm; good to choice western rolls, [illegible]; tub, [illegible]. Coffee … fair to prime Rio, [illegible]. Whiskey … and lower at 98c.

Live Stock …

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. … moderately active and firm … and Western steers, … good, $6 10@7 … common … dull at $5 10@6 … Hogs … 7.75. Sales 1,80… 7,000 hogs.

EAST LIBERTY, Pa., … Cattle—Arrivals, … cars; … medium, $5 0[illegible]@5 50; common, … 75; stockers, $3 00@3 50. Hogs—Arrivals, 18 cars; best Philadelphia, $5 50@5 60; Yorkers, $5 30@5 60. Sheep—Arrivals, 1 car; best, $5 00@5 50; medium, $4 00@4 50; common, $3 00@4 00.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—Cattle—Receipts, 1,900 head. The market was fairly active; sales of fair to good steer at $4 40@5 35; choice, $5 50; corn-fed Cherokees and Texans, $4 15@4 30; cows, $3 50@4 00; shipments, 1100 head. Hogs—Receipts, 6,300 head. The market was active and higher; all sold at $4 80@5 40 for common to choice heavy at $4 80@5 10 for do light; shipments, 4,000 head. Sheep—Receipts, 1,… head. The market was fairly active at $4@… for common to choice.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Beeves—Receipts to-day and yesterday, 3,600 head, making the total supply for the week 5,9[illegible]4 head, against 7,800 head for the same time last week. The market was fair and prices ¼@½c higher on good to prime cattle; Texas at … 10c; native steers, 9@13c. Sheep and Lambs—Fresh receipts, 4,150 head, making 18,180 head for the week, against 25,0[illegible] head the same time last week. The demand was fair for good sheep; prices were well sustained. The extreme range was [illegible], with a few extra lambs at 7½@7¾c. Hogs—Receipts to-day, 10,5[illegible] head, making the total supply 55,763 head for the week, against 45,8[illegible] head last week. Live hogs dull and nominal at [illegible]. Dressed hogs weak at 6½@6¾c for city and 6¼@6½c for western.

Wool Markets.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29.—Wool steady and firm. Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia double extra and above, [illegible]; extra, [illegible]; medium, [illegible]; coarse, [illegible]; New York, Michigan, Indiana and Western fine, [illegible]; medium, [illegible]; coarse, [illegible]; combing washed, [illegible]; combing unwashed, [illegible]; Canada combing, [illegible]; fine unwashed, [illegible]; coarse and medium unwashed, [illegible]; tub washed, [illegible]; extra and merino pulled, [illegible]; No 1 and superfine pulled, [illegible].

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—There has been a marked falling off in the activity noticed last week, owing, doubtless, to the high views of holders and the nearness of the holiday season, but prices are still firmly maintained. The demand is still mostly for the … grades of fleeces and California, foreign not being … called for. Transactions of the week have been as follows: Oregon [illegible]; Colorado [illegible]; Texas [illegible]; unwashed [illegible]; Georgia [illegible]; spring California [illegible]; burry do [illegible]; fall do [illegible]; Ohio fleece [illegible]; Michigan do [illegible]; No 1 Wisconsin do [illegible]; fine unwashed [illegible]; super pulled [illegible]; [illegible] and above at [illegible]; Cape [illegible]; Mexican [illegible]; Australian [illegible].

BOSTON, Dec. 29.—Wool firm and buoyant with an upward tendency. The principal transactions of the week have been in … extra Ohio and Pennsylvania fleece at … Michigan and Wisconsin fleece at … and … of super fleece and … Some of the principal … and Pennsylvania fleece are not … at less than … for … extra and … for double extra. … scarce, and good superfine is now … Sales of the week amount …